

THE  
HISTORY  
OF A  
FAIR GREEK,

Who was taken out of a Seraglio at  
CONSTANTINOPLE,

And brought to Paris by a  
LATE EMBASSADOR  
AT THE  
OTTOMAN PORT:

Interpersed with the surprizing Adventures of several  
other Slaves.

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By Abbot PROVOST,  
Almoner to His Serene Highness the Prince of Conti.

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In Two VOLUMES.

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D U B L I N:

Printed by S. POWELL,

For EDWARD EXSHAW, at the Bible on Cork-bill,  
over-against the Old-Exchange, M DCC XLI.







# PREFACE.

**T**HIS History has no need of a Preface, but custom requires all Books to have this ornament in their front. Know therefore, Courteous Reader, that you are to expect no key to the Names, no light concerning the Facts, nor the least hints to enable you to guess at anything more than your own knowledge shall suggest. The Manuscript was found among the papers of a Gentleman who was well known in the world, and some care has been taken to cloath it in a tolerable stile, without lessening the simplicity of the Narration, or the force of the Sentiments. The whole breaths Love, Honour and Virtue. Let it depart with such auspicious omens, and owe its success only to its merit.

It must, however, be own'd that it will have a double charm for Readers who have some knowledge of the principal Characters; but let them take care not to confound our Heroine with a *Fair Circassian*, whom an in-

## P R E F A C E.

nite number of Gentlemen knew and esteem-  
ed, and whose History has not the least re-  
semblance of this.

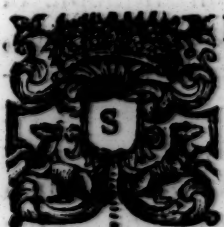
All samples of Turkish Erudition, which  
wou'd only have deaden'd the narration,  
are every where carefully retrench'd; fo-  
reign Names, which wou'd admit of a  
Change, are render'd by English ones;  
*Seraglio* is used instead of *Harem*, which is  
the Name of private Seraglioës; *Market*  
instead of *Bazar*, &c. This is done for  
the sake of those who are not familiar with  
accounts of the Levant, in most of which  
all such terms are explain'd.

It must, however, be own'd that it will  
have a double charm for Readers who have  
a knowledge of the principal matters;  
but it is not to be confid'd out-  
-line with a few names, which are in-  
-line

THE



THE  
FAIR GREEK.

 SHALL I not render myself suspected by the confession with which I set out? I am in love with the beautiful Greek whose History I am going to write. Who will think me sincere in the recital of my pleasures or my pains? Who will not mistrust my descriptions and my encomiums? Will not the violence of my passion change the nature of every thing which I see or do? In a word, what truth can be expected from a pen which is guided by love? These are reasons which shou'd keep the Reader upon his guard. But a sagacious one will immediately conclude that I shou'd not have declared them with so much frankness, were it not at the same time in my power to take off all their force. I was, I confess it again, a long while in love; and I flatter myself perhaps, even at present, with being more free than I really am from this fatal poison. But

then I have known only the rigors of love. I never tasted of its pleasures, nor even of its illusions, which in the temper I then was I shou'd without doubt have deem'd a real blessing. I am a repulsed, and even a betray'd Lover, if I may credit appearances which I shall submit to the judgment of my Readers. I was however esteem'd by her I adored, listen'd to as a Father, respected as a Master, consulted as a Friend. What a return for such an affection as mine! And as some of its anguish still hangs about me, can I be suspected to draw too flattering a portrait of the ungrateful Fair, who has been the constant plague of my life.

I was charged with his Majesty's affairs in a Court, with the customs and intrigues of which no one was better acquainted. The advantage which I had at my arrival at Constantinople of perfectly understanding the Turkish Language, procured me almost at once such a degree of familiarity and respect as few Ministers arrive at 'till after a long time of probation; and the sole singularity of seeing a Frenchman almost as much a Turk, if I may be allow'd the expression, as the Natives of the Country, gain'd me many marks of respect and distinction which were never discontinued or abated. The taste which I affected to show for the customs and manners of the Turks, was a means of encreasing their affections for me; and they went so far as to fancy that I could not be so much like themselves without being well disposed towards their religion. And this thought heighten'd their esteem for me to such a degree, that I found myself almost as free and familiar in a City in which I had hardly lived two months, as in the place of my birth.

The duties of my Employment allow'd me many opportunities of a general acquaintance, and



I immediately resolved to cultivate it, as well to satisfy my curiosity as to draw from it all the advantages I cou'd. I was besides of an age when the taste of pleasure is very consistent with that of business; and indeed my design in going to Asia was to gratify both these inclinations. The diversions of the Turks did not appear so strange to me but that I hoped I shou'd soon have as quick a relish of them as they. My only fear was that I shou'd not find it easy to satisfy my desires with regard to women. But the great constraint in which they live, and the difficulty there is of even seeing them, had already made me resolve to stifle all inclinations of this kind, and to prefer a life of tranquillity to such troublesome pleasures.

I lived however very familiarly with the Turkish Lords who were most famous for their delicacy with regard to their women, and most magnificent in their Seraghioes. As they often treated me at their palaces with great respect and distinction, I used to wonder that in the midst of their entertainments they never dropped one word concerning the objects of their gallantries, and that their most open and free conversations never turned upon any thing but their feastings, their hunting-matches, and such little accidents of the Court and City as afforded matter of raillery. I resolved to be as much upon the reserve as they, and often pitied them for abridging themselves, by an excess of jealousy or thro' a want of taste, of the most agreeable subjects which enliven conversation. But I did not apprehend their views: They meant to make a tryal of my discretion; and as they suppose our Countrymen to have a regard to merit in women, they agreed as it were by consent to let me of my own accord discover my inclinations with regard to this matter. This

was at least the judgment which they soon gave me grounds to form of their conduct.

An old Bassa, who quietly enjoy'd the riches which he had heap'd up in a long possession of his office, had show'd me many marks of esteem, which I endeavour'd to return by continual testimonies of gratitude and affection. His house was become as familiar to me as my own. I was well acquainted with all the apartments of it except that of the women, towards which I took care never to cast my eyes. He observed this affectation, and not doubting but that I knew at least the situation of his Seraglio, often engaged me to walk with him in his garden, into which one part of the building looks. In short, perceiving that I was obstinately silent, he said to me with a smile, that he admired my discretion. You can't, but know, adds he, that I have beautiful women, and neither your age nor complexion can inspire you with much indifference for the Sex. I am surpris'd that your curiosity has not made you wish to see them. I know your customs, replied I very coldly, and wou'd not desire you to dispense with them in my favour. A little knowledge of the world, continued I, looking upon him with the same air, gave me to understand, on my arrival in this country, that since so many precautions are taken with regard to women, curiosity and discretion must be the two vices which are the least supportable here. Why shou'd I run the risk of giving my friends pain by asking what might displease them? He highly commended my answer; and confessing that many instances of the rashness of the French had given the Turks an ill opinion of their Gallants, he seem'd the more pleas'd to find my sentiments so just and reasonable. He immediately offer'd me a sight of his women, and I accepted, tho' with no seeming eagerness, of the favour. We enter'd  
into

into a place, the description of which is not necessary to my design ; tho' I was so much struck with the order and œconomy of it, that I cou'd easily give a very circumstantial one.

The Bassa's women, who were two and twenty in number, were all together in a hall appointed for their exercises. They were separately employ'd, some in painting of flowers, some in embroidering and other kinds of needle-work, according to their talents and inclinations, which they had the liberty of following. Their cloaths seem'd to me to be the same ; the colour of them at least was uniform. But their head-dresses were different, and suited, I found, to the air of their faces. A great number of Domestics of both sexes, of whom however I observed that those who appear'd to be of my own were eunuchs, stood in the corners of the hall ready to obey their commands. But this croud of Slaves retired as soon as we enter'd, and the two and twenty Ladies rising up without going from their places, seem'd to wait for the orders of their Lord, or to learn the occasion of a visit at which they were evidently very much surpris'd. I view'd them all one after another : Their ages seem'd unequal ; but as I did not observe any above thirty ; so neither did I see any so young as I expected, there being none who were less than sixteen or seventeen.

Cheriber, that was the name of the Bassa, order'd them in a very courteous manner to come to him, and having told them in a few words who I was, desir'd them to do something for my amusement. They order'd several instruments to be brought, upon which some of them began to play, while others danced in a very graceful and easy manner. This entertainment having lasted upwards of an hour, the Bassa order'd something to refresh them, which was distributed in every part



of the hall in which the Ladies had again taken their several places. I had not as yet had any occasion to speak. At last he asked me my opinion of this gallant assembly ; and taking occasion from my complimenting him upon their charms, made many sensible reflections upon the power of education and custom, which make the most lovely women obedient and easy in Turkey, whilst I hear, says he, that all other nations complain of the troubles and disorders which they occasion by their beauty. I answer'd him by some reflections greatly to the advantage of the Turkish Ladies. No, replies he, this is not more the character of our women than of those of other Countries. Of the two and twenty whom you see here, there are not four who are Turks by birth ; most of them are Slaves whom I bought without distinction. And directing my eyes to one of the youngest and most amiable, that is a Greek, says he, whom I have not had above six months, and know not out of whose hands she came. The charms of her person and mind engaged me to take her at a venture, and you see her as contented with her condition as her Companions. Considering however the extent and vivacity of her Genius, I sometimes wonder that she cou'd so soon submit to our customs, and can find no other reason for it but the force of example and use. You may talk with her a little, says he, and I shall be much mistaken if you don't discover in her all the merit which among you raises women to the most exalted stations, and qualifies them for the most weighty affairs.

I went to her. Her genius inclined her to Painting ; and seeming but little attentive to what was doing in the hall, she had no sooner left off dancing but she resumed her pencil. After some excuses for the liberty I took of interrupting her,



I cou'd think of nothing better to say than what I had heard from Cheriber. I congratulated her therefore upon the qualities which so greatly endeared her to her Master ; and informing her that I knew how long she had been there, wonder'd how she cou'd in so short a time be so perfectly conformable to the customs and exercises of the Ladies of Turkey. Her answer was very ingenuous. As a woman, says she, has no felicity to hope for but that of pleasing her Master, I shall think myself very happy, if Cheriber entertains the opinion which he gave you of me ; and since I am influenced by this motive, you can't be surpris'd that I have so easily brought myself to submit to the laws which he has enacted for his Slaves. This unfeigned devotion to the will of an Old Man, in a lovely girl who cou'd not be above sixteen, seem'd to me much more admirable than all that the Bassa had told me of her. I thought I observed, by her air as well as her words, that what she said really came from her heart. The comparison which I made in my own mind between the principles of our Ladies and hers, lead me without design to show some regret at seeing her born to a condition so far inferior to that which she merited by such great condescension and goodness. I mention'd with some concern the unhappiness of Christian Countries : where the men, though they do every thing that may contribute to the happiness of the women, though they treat them like Queens instead of Slaves, devote themselves entirely to them, and ask no return but gentleness, love, and virtue, are almost always deceived in the choice of a wife, who partakes of their name, their rank, and fortune. And perceiving that my complaints were eagerly listen'd to, I went on to speak of the felicity of a French husband who shou'd be so happy as to find in the Companion

Companion of his life the virtues which are as it were thrown away upon the Turkish Ladies, since they are so unhappy as never to meet with the returns they deserve.

This conversation, in which I own the compassion with which I was moved, gave the Fair Greek but few opportunities of answering me, was interrupted by Cheriber. He perceived perhaps the warmth with which I talk'd to his Slave ; but as my heart did not reproach me with any breach of confidence, my air was perfectly free and unconcerned. His discourse had not the least tincture of jealousy. On the contrary, he promised frequently to give me the same entertainment, provided I found any amusement in it.

I refrain'd from going to see him again for some days, with a view of preventing all suspicion by affecting an indifference for women. But in a visit which he made me to reproach me with my neglect, a Slave of his train gave a letter to my Valet de Chambre, which he deliver'd to me in the same cautious manner he received it. Having open'd it, I found it was written in Greek characters which I did not understand, tho' I had begun to learn the Language. I immediately sent for my Master, who pass'd for a very good Christian, and desired him to explain it, pretending that it had fallen into my hands by chance. He translated it for me, and I presently found that it came from the young Greek with whom I had the conversation which I have mention'd in the Bassa's Seraglio ; but the contents of it were such as I cou'd not have expected. After some reflections upon the wretchedness of her condition, she conjured me by the esteem which I express'd for women who loved virtue, to use my interest to get her out of the hands of the Bassa.

I had conceived no sentiments for her but those of admiration, which were the natural tribute of her charms ; and according to the rules which I had laid down for my conduct, nothing was so contrary to my intentions as the engaging in an adventure, for which I might reasonably expect more pain than pleasure. I did not doubt but that the young Slave, charmed with the picture which I had drawn in a few words of the happiness of our women, was disgusted with living in a Seraglio ; and hoping to find in me all the dispositions which I boasted of in my Countrymen, was desirous of drawing me into an intrigue : And reflecting upon the danger of the enterprize, I was the more confirm'd in my first resolution. My natural desire however of obliging an amiable woman, whose condition I supposed to be very wretched, put me upon thinking whether it was impossible to procure her liberty by honourable methods. I thought of trying one which would exercise my generosity only, and that was to pay the price of her ransom ; but the affair of affronting the Bassa by such an offer, made me hesitate about it. I hit upon a scheme at last which satisfied all my scruples. Being intimately acquainted with the *Selihtar*, who is one of the most important persons of the empire, I resolved to acquaint him with the desire I had of buying a Slave which belong'd to Bassa Cheriber, and to get him to propose it as tho' he desired her himself. The *Selihtar* consented, without pretending that I shou'd be under any obligation to him for so slight a service, and I left the price to him. The deference which Cheriber paid to his rank, induced him to accept of easier terms than I cou'd have expected. The *Selihtar* sent me word the very same day that I might have her, and that she would cost me a thousand crowns.



I was highly satisfied with laying out my money to so good a purpose ; but being near obtaining what I had so earnestly desired, I began to consider what I must do with this young Slave, and what cou'd be her views in quitting the Seraglio. Does she design to come hither, and to look upon my house as her home ? She is indeed amiable enough to deserve that some care shou'd be taken of her ; but, besides the decorum which I am obliged to observe with regard to my Domesticks, is it possible that the Bassa shou'd not sooner or later learn where she is, and shall I not then run upon the rock which I thought I had avoided ? This thought made me so cool in the affair, that seeing the Selihtar next day, I discover'd to him some signs of regret for having employ'd him in an affair which wou'd, I apprehended, occasion the Bassa too much uneasiness ; and I took my leave of him without mentioning one word about sending him the thousand crowns, in order to make a visit to Cheriber. Divided all at once between my desire of serving the Slave, the difficulties in which I might involve myself by doing it, and the apprehension of chagrining my friend, I shou'd have been glad of any pretence to have been handsomely quit of the affair ; and I consider'd whether it wou'd not be my best way to make a frank confession of the whole matter to the Bassa himself, in order to discover whether the sacrifice which I as it were obliged him to make, wou'd not cost him too much uneasiness. I thought a regard for my friend so reasonable an excuse, that I might for the sake of it dispense with gratifying the caprice of a woman. My visit was very agreeable to Cheriber ; and his chearfulness and signs of joy preventing my making the discovery for which I was prepared, I suffer'd him to tell me without interruption  
that



that he had lessen'd the number of his Slaves, by selling his Fair Greek to the Selictar. He appear'd so easy in relating the affair, that forming a judgment of his thoughts by his words, I concluded he was not much concerned at his loss. I also found afterwards that he had no great inclination for women, that desires of this kind at his time of life gave him very little disturbance, and that the expence he was at in his Seraglio was rather to gratify his vanity than any other passion. These observations having removed my scruples, I laid aside all thoughts of acquainting him with them, and suffer'd him to enjoy the satisfaction of obliging the Selictar, and of having a just title to his acknowledgments.

Having invited me to spend a little time in his Seraglio, he seem'd to me to be at a loss how to break the matter to his Slave : She knows not, says he, that she is going to change her Master ; and after the many testimonies which I have given her of my affection, it will vex her pride to see me so easily consent to give her up to another. You shall be a witness, adds he, of the manner of our parting ; for I am going to see her for the last time, having told the Selictar that he may send for her whenever he pleases. I foresaw that this scene would not be unpleasant to me, tho' from different motives from those which made the Bassa fear it would be disagreeable to him. Not having ventured to answer her letter, I expected that she would be concerned to find that she was to be a Slave in the Selictar's Seraglio. What a punishment to hear this in my presence, and not dare to vent her resentment by complaining ! She came to me twice, and asked me for an answer to her letter ; but my only reply was, that she shou'd have no cause to repent of her good opinion of me,

me, and that I would serve her with all the zeal she expected.

The Bassa instead of leading me into the hall, sent for his Slave into a closet, to which he order'd that no body else shou'd be admitted. The perturbation of her soul was evident to me from the apprehension with which she approached us. She cou'd not see me with her Patron without flattering herself that I approved of her design, and brought her perhaps the welcome news of her liberty ; and the first compliment which the Bassa made her, confirmed her in this opinion. He told her with great good nature and politeness, that he cou'd not, notwithstanding his great affection for her, refuse to make over his title to her heart to a very powerful friend : But then, adds he, my consolation in losing you is, that you will fall into the hands of a man of honour. He is one of the first Lords of the Empire, and is enabled by his riches and prompted by his inclination, to make the lives of all women happy who have the good fortune to gain any ascendant over him. And then he named the Seliſtar. Her trembling looks and the grief which immediately diffused itself all over her face, seem'd to reproach me with having mistaken her meaning. She supposed that in delivering her from the Seraglio of Cheriber, I had only changed her Master, and that I had consequently misunderstood or slighted the motives which induced her to desire me to serve her. Cheriber did not at all doubt but that her concern proceeded from her unwillingness to leave him, and she confirmed him in this opinion by protesting that if she must live in the condition in which Fortune had placed her, she wished for no other Master : and her grief made her join such affectionate intreaties with this protestation, that

I saw the Bassa was about to relent, and to forget his promise to the Seliſtar. But looking upon his repentance as very short-lived, and being much less affected with it than with the tears of the Fair Greek, I haſten'd to their relief, which I effected by letting fall ſome words which made them both eaſy. You ſhou'd not, ſays I to the Slave, be ſo much concerned, ſince the Baſſa parts with you only to oblige a friend; and if you doubt of the happineſs that awaits you, I have ſo much intereſt with the Seliſtar that I dare paſs my word that he will make you miſtreſs of your own fortune. She looked earneſtly upon me, and read my thoughts in my eyes; and there was nothing in what I ſaid but what was very agreeable to Cheriber. The reſt of our converſation was pleaſanter to us all. He loaded her with preſents, and deſired my aſſiſtance in the choice of them. He afterwards made his excuſes to me, and lead her into another room; where I ſuppoſe he gave her the laſt marks of his affection. My heart was certainly entirely free, ſince I cou'd bear this thought without the leaſt emotion.

Being now too far embark'd in this affair to think of retreating, I went home for the thouſand crowns, and carried them directly to the Seliſtar. He aſked me very pleaſantly if my adventure muſt be a ſecret to him; and deſired me, by way of acknowledgment of the ſervice he was going to do me, to tell him at leaſt by what means I became acquainted with a Slave of Cheriber. As I had no occaſion to diſſemble, I gave him the whole hiſtory of the affair. And when he ſeem'd not to believe that generoſity was the only motive which induced me to ſerve ſo lovely a creature as I had repreſented the young Greek to be, I proteſted that I had not the leaſt paſſion for her, that I meant nothing but to ſet her at liberty, and had  
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some perplexity in my own mind about the manner in which I shou'd dispose of her : And all this was said in so serious a manner, that I left him no room to doubt of my sincerity. He appointed the time of my sending for her, and I waited for it without the least impatience. We agreed it shou'd be in the night, in order to conceal this adventure from the public. I sent my Valet de Chambre, about nine o'clock in the evening, in an ordinary coach, and ordered him only to let the Seliſtar know that he came from me. He was told that the Seliſtar would see me the next day, and give me an account himself of the steps which he had taken in my affair.

This delay gave me no uneasiness : For whatever might be the occasion of it, I had done every thing which generosity and honour required of me ; and any pleasure which I might receive from the success of my enterprize, cou'd arise only from those two motives. I had, in this interval, seriously consider'd of the conduct I ought to observe towards this young Slave. I found a thousand objections against taking her home to my own house, and resolved not to own her publicly for my Mistress, even tho' she shou'd design to reward me with her charms for the services I had done her. I went to my Language Master, with whom I had entrusted the affair. He was a married man : I desired his wife to receive the Slave from my Valet de Chambre, and purposed to go myself the next morning, and learn from her own mouth what she desired further of me.

The Seliſtar had stronger reasons than I imagined for not sending my Slave according to agreement. Going to his house the next morning just as he was designing to come to me, I perceived that



that my visit gave him some confusion. He answer'd the questions I had ask'd him; and then embracing me with more fondness than I thought was natural in a man of his temper, he conjured me to recollect what I had told him last night in terms which left him no room to question my being in earnest. He waited till I had confirmed what I had said to him before; and then embracing me again with an air of more frankness and gaiety, told me that he had conceived a violent passion for Cheriber's Slave, and that he was the happiest of all mortals, since he found that I was not his Rival, and that he cou'd have no opposition to fear from so good a Friend. He conceal'd nothing from me. I have seen her, said he, and spent an hour in her company; and tho' I did not mention one word of Love, her charms have left so deep an impression, that I cannot live without her. You behold her not, continued he, with the same eyes, and I flatter myself as you are insensible of her charms, that you will readily resign her to your friend. Set what price you please upon her, and let not Cheriber who was ignorant of her value, be any rule to you.

Tho' I did not at all expect a proposal of this nature after the services which he had done me, yet as there was nothing in it contrary to the rules of honour and friendship, I did not complain; but the motives which first inclined me to serve the fair Slave, made me abhor the thoughts of giving her another Master contrary to her own inclination: And this was the only difficulty which I urged to the Seliotar. Cou'd you assure me said I, that she returns your passion, or that she is at least willing to be yours, I call Heaven to witness that I would readily lay aside all my designs, and shou'd be so far from suffering you to ask for her a second time, that I shou'd even press you to accept

cept of her ; but I know that she would look upon a return to a Seraglio as the greatest evil which could befall her, and this is the only reason that induced me to interest myself in her affairs. Here he cou'd not help having recourse to the principles of his country. Must we consult, says he, the inclinations of a Slave ? I immediately robb'd him of his pretence. Don't call her a Slave, says I, since I purchased her with no other than to make her free, and since she was so in fact the moment she came out of the hands of Cheriber.

He was greatly surpris'd at this declaration. And as I was not willing to lose his friendship, I added that it was not impossible but that the passion and offers of a man of his rank and fortune might make an impression upon the heart of a girl of her age, and gave him my word that I wou'd readily comply with any thing to which she shou'd voluntarily consent. I propos'd the putting her to the tryal immediately. This revived his hopes, and the young Greek was call'd in. I undertook to explain the sentiments of the Selihtar, but took care to let her know that she was to be entirely free in her choice, and might determine just as she pleas'd. You are mine, says I to her ; I bought you of Cheriber by means of the Selihtar. My design is to make you happy, and an opportunity now offers of doing it. You may here find in the affection of a man that loves you, and in an affluence of all things, what you may in vain seek for in all other parts of the World. The Selihtar, who approv'd of what I said and thought my proceedings very fair, was eager to make her a thousand flattering promises. He call'd his Prophet to witness that she shou'd be advanced to the first rank in his Seraglio, and gave her a description of all the pleasures which await-  
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ed her, and of the number of Slaves which she shou'd have to attend her. She heard his proposals, but had fully apprehended the drift of mine. If you design to make me happy, says she, addressing herself to me, you must put it in my power to be so. This answer leaving me no room to doubt of her inclination, I thought of nothing but of furnishing her with arms to defend herself against violence; for tho' I did not much apprehend any from such a man as the Seliſtar, yet this precaution did not for many reasons seem to me to be needless. The Turks, tho' they keep no measures with their Slaves, have a great regard for women that are free. Being desirous therefore of sheltering her from the dangers of her condition, follow your inclinations, said I, and don't be influenced by your fears of me or of any body else; for you are no longer a Slave, and I freely give you up all my right and title to your person and liberty.

She very well knew how the Turks behaved towards women that are free. Whatever transports of joy therefore my declaration gave her, her first care was to assume the air and countenance which she thought suitable to the change of her condition. I admir'd the graceful modesty which immediately diffused itself all over her face. She was less solicitous to make her acknowledgments to me, than to let the Seliſtar understand what conduct her duty wou'd oblige her to observe, after the benefit which I had confer'd upon her. He was himself compell'd to own the reasonableness of her behaviour, and expressing his resentment only by his silence, seem'd inclined to grant her the liberty which she desired of leaving him. I knew not whether she designed to go; but being herself surprized that I did not let her know my pleasure, she came and asked me. I did



did not think proper to enter into particulars before the Seliſtar, and aſſuring her that ſhe ſhou'd always find me ready to ſerve her to the utmoſt of my power, I lead her to the door, and there deliver'd her into the hands of my ſervants; ordering them to conduct her privately to the houſe of my Language Maſter. There are at Conſtantinople a ſort of vehicles on purpoſe for the uſe of women.

I was ſurprized that the Seliſtar, inſtead of oppoſing her going away, did himſelf order the doors to be open'd, and that he received me at my return with a very compoſed countenance. He entreated me, in the ſame calm manner, to hear what he had been thinking of. I applaud, ſays he, your great generoſity in concerning yourſelf with the welfare of this young Greek, and think it ſo diſinterreſted that it excites my admiration. But ſince you judge her worthy of it, your opinion adds ſtrength to the paſſion with which ſhe has inſpired me. She is free, continued he, and I don't blame you for taking more care of her ſatiſfaction than mine. But I have one favour to aſk, of which I promiſe to make no ill uſe. It is not to let her to leave this City without my knowledge. I'll ſoon reſealſe you from your promiſe, adds he; for you ſhall know my mind in four days at fartheſt. I made no difficulty of granting him ſo ſmall a favour. For being apprehenſive leſt he ſhou'd have retain'd ſome reſentment of my conduct, I was glad to preſerve his eſteem and friendſhip at ſo eaſy a rate.

Some affairs which I had to tranſact that day, obliged me to defer viſiting my young Greek 'till the evening. I happen'd to meet with Cheriber, who told me that the Seliſtar was extremely pleaſed with his Slave. Their ſeeing one another



ther must have been after I left him. His prudence in concealing our adventure, encreased my good opinion of him ; and Cheriber greatly heighten'd that which he had of me, and assured me, from what the Seliſtar had ſaid, that I had not in the world two friends who were more entirely devoted to my ſervice. I received this compliment with all the acknowledgments it deſerv'd. Not being very much concerned to conſider in what theſe freſh aſſurances of friendſhip, and the promiſe which the Seliſtar had required of me, wou'd end ; my heart and mind were both perfectly eaſy, and nothing had wrought any alteration in either of them, when I went to the Language Maſter's in the evening.

I was told that the young Greek, who had already changed the name of Zara, by which ſhe went during her ſlavery, into that of Theoſa, had expected me with all the ſigns of the utmoſt impatience. I went to her, and ſhe immediately threw herſelf at my feet which ſhe embraced with a flood of tears. I endeavour'd in vain for a long time to raiſe her up. Her ſighs were at firſt the only language that I heard ; but as her paſſions ſubſided, ſhe call'd me a thouſand times her Deliverer, her Father, her Guardian Angel. It was impoſſible for me to moderate the tranſports with which her ſoul was ſo entirely poſſeſs'd. And being moved myſelf even to tears with ſuch lively expreſſions of gratitude, I had not power to put a ſtop to them, but was forced to leave her at liberty to vent the overflowings of her heart. At laſt when I perceived that ſhe was a little recovered, I took her in my arms, and having placed her in a chair, ſate down by her.

When ſhe had taken breath a little, ſhe repeated with more order what with broken accents ſhe had twenty times begun before, and been

as often interrupted by torrents of passion. She admired my goodness; thank'd me in the most affectionate manner for my benefits; ardently pray'd to Heaven to reward me with its choicest blessings for services which she shou'd never be able to return; said that she did herself the greatest violence in suppressing her transports before the Seliſtar; that she had not suffer'd less from the delay of my visit, and that she shou'd be more wretched than she was in her slavery unless I believed it would be the constant study and business of her life to make herself worthy of my favours. I interrupted her, to assure her that such lively and sincere acknowledgments greatly outweigh'd all my services. And with a view of diverting her transports which were I saw ready to burst out again, I beg'd she wou'd be so kind as to inform me how long since and by what misfortune she lost her liberty.

My heart can bear me witness that notwithstanding the charms of her person and the moving disorder in which I saw her at my feet and in my arms, I hitherto felt no sentiments for her but those of compassion. My natural delicacy prevented any of a more tender kind for a girl who came out of the hands of a Turk, and in whom I expected nothing but exterior merit, which is not uncommon in the Seraglioes of the Levant. Thus have I the merit of performing a very generous action, and yet many rigid Christians will, I doubt not, condemn me for it. He ought, will they say, to have employ'd the money which he lavish'd away on his pleasures, in the service of Religion or in the redemption of miserable Captives. I submit this adventure to the judgment of my Readers; but if the beginning of it deserves to be censured, I  
fear

fear the sequel will not be thought more excusable.

The least hint of my desires seeming to have the force of a law with Theofa, she promised to tell me very sincerely all that she knew of her birth and adventures. As long since, said she, as I can remember any thing, I lived in a City of the Morea, where my Father passed for a stranger. As he always concealed from me the place of my birth, it is upon his authority only that I suppose myself to be of a Greek extraction. He was very poor, and not having talents to make himself otherwise, brought me up in great poverty; but I can't recollect any circumstances of a distress of which I was too young to be sensible. I was hardly six years old when I was carried to Patras. The plenty which I found there after a life of indigence, made impressions on my mind which are not yet worn out. I lived with my father; but had been some years in this City before I rightly understood my condition, or for what I was designed. My father, tho' he was not a slave himself nor had sold me, was detain'd in the service of the Turkish Governor. Some little charms which he found in my person, had served to recommend him to that Gentleman, who promised to maintain him as long as he lived, and to have me carefully educated, with no other condition but that of being deliver'd up to him, as soon as I shou'd arrive at an age that was fit for his purposes. My father, besides his board and lodging, obtain'd a small post; and I was educated under his care by a female Slave of the Governor, who when I was hardly ten years old began to inform me of my happiness in pleasing her Master, and of the views with which he had undertaken my education. What was represented as the greatest good

fortune, appeared to me in no other light. The splendor of the women of his Seraglio, and the happy manner in which I was told they lived, excited my impatience. But the Governor was so far advanced in years, that my father fearing the advantages which had drawn him to Patras, and which he then received, wou'd not be for life, began to repent of an engagement, the fruits of which would probably be of so short a continuance. He did not as yet communicate his thoughts to me; but having nothing to apprehend from the principles in which I had been educated, he enter'd into a secret correspondence with the Governor's son, who had already discovered a great inclination to women, and made him the same proposals as his father had agreed to. I was shou'd to this young Gentleman, and he conceived a violent passion for me. But being more impatient than his father, and insisting that the time of their agreement shou'd be shorten'd, I was deliver'd up to him at an age when I did not know the difference of the Sexes.

A taste of pleasure, you see, cou'd no ways be the cause of my misfortunes, and I may rather be said to have been born in these irregularities than to have fallen into them. It is not strange therefore that I never knew either shame or remorse on their account. As to any desires of an amorous kind, I was a perfect stranger to them during my commerce with this young Turk, which lasted till the time which the Governor had appointed for taking me himself. His son, my father, and the Slave who had the care of my education, were all equally confounded; but I was far from being so, tho' I thought that the Governor had the best title to me. He was haughty and cruel; and my father having unluckily depended upon his death, was in a great per-



perplexity. But being at last overcome by his fears, he resolved to run away with me, without saying any thing to the slave or the young Turk. He was unfortunate in his attempt, and we were both seized before we reached the gates of the city ; but not being a Slave, his endeavour to escape was not a crime for which he was liable to be punished. The Governor was however in a great passion with him, and reproached him with his flight and the benefits he had confer'd upon him as kinds of treachery and theft. I was that very day shut up in his Seraglio, and was told at night that I shou'd have the honour of being enroll'd among my Master's women. I look'd upon this as a great favour, and not comprehending the reasons of my father's flight, was surprised that he shou'd all at once desire to change our conditions.

Being prepar'd for the honour which was to be confer'd upon me, I was at night conducted to the Governor's apartment, who receiv'd me with great complaisance and tokens of endearment. At the same instant word was brought him that his son was very earnest to see him, and that his business was so urgent that it cou'd not be put off 'till the morning. He was introduced, and every body but me order'd to retire. They went into an inner room, where they were some time together. I heard some very high words, which were follow'd by a noise that began to alarm me. The son rushing out with an affrighted air, came to me, took me by the hand, and entreated me to fly. But afterwards recollecting no doubt what he had to fear from the Domestics, he went away alone, deceived them by some pretended orders of his father, and left me in the condition he found me, trembling with apprehension, and not daring to go and see what had

happen'd. In about a quarter of an hour the Slaves, whom the young Turk had told that his father desired to be so long alone, came to me ; and finding me in the place where they left me and in a great agony, began to suspect some mischief. They asked me several questions, but not being able to speak, I pointed to the inner room ; where they found their Master stab'd with a poniard, and weltering in his blood. Their shrieks soon drew together all the women of the Seraglio, who asked me the occasion of so tragical a scene. I told them what I had heard and seen ; and knowing little more of the affair than they, testified my ignorance and grief by my tears.

No body doubted but that the Governor was kill'd by his son ; and this opinion, which was confirm'd by the flight of the young Turk, produced a very singular effect. The women and Slaves of the Seraglio believing that they had now no Master, thought of nothing but of seizing every thing which was most valuable which came in their way, and of taking the opportunity of the night to escape from their prison. All the doors therefore being set wide open, I resolv'd to go away ; and so much the rather, because no body thought it worth their while to say or do any thing to comfort or detain me. I design'd to go to my father's apartment which was near the Seraglio, and whither I knew I cou'd easily find my way. I had hardly taken twenty steps in the dark, but I fancied I saw the Governor's son, but was not sure of it 'till I ventured to ask who he was. He said in a great fright that he wanted to know whether his father was dead, and if he was, that he would immediately secure himself by flight. I related all I had seen, and his grief seem'd to me to be sincere. He told

told me in a few words, that he went to his father with more fear than anger to inform him of his commerce with me, that his father was so enraged at the discovery that he attempted to stab him with his poniard, and that he could not possibly prevent him by any method but the terrible one which he had taken. He desired me to accompany him in his flight ; but as he was very earnestly pressing me to do it, we were surrounded by several persons who knew him, and who, upon the noise of his guilt, were come to apprehend him. I was left at my liberty, and run as fast as I cou'd to my father, who received me with transports of joy.

Not caring to act any part in so shocking a scene, he immediately proposed to quit the City, and to take me and every thing which he had scraped together during his abode at Patras along with him. He did not tell me what were his views in this, and I was too simple to apprehend any thing of them. We were suffer'd to depart without any obstruction. But we were hardly got out to sea, when he talk'd to me in a manner that very much afflicted me. You are young says he, and endow'd by nature with every thing that is requisite to raise a woman to the highest fortune ; and I am carrying you to a place where you may reap great benefit from your uncommon qualifications : But you must bind yourself by an oath to follow my directions, and he urged me to make it in terms which he thought the most inviolable. I was exceedingly unwilling to comply ; for having a little reflected on my late commerce, I perceived that in engagements of this nature I shou'd find more pleasure in being guided by my own choice than by his. The son of the Governor of Patras, in whose hands I had been, made no impression on my heart ; while I saw se-



veral young men with whom I shou'd not have been unwilling to have enter'd into such a familiarity. Paternal authority however was too heavy a yoke for me to resist ; and I was as it were forced to comply with his desire. We arrived at Constantinople ; and I spent the first two or three months in acquiring the manners and accomplishments which render women agreeable, and are most taking in this Metropolis. I was not then above fifteen. My father was continually flattering me with a fortune which would exceed my utmost hopes, but without saying what it was. One day in his return from the City he did not perceive that he was follow'd by two men who watch'd him into the house, and then calling some of the neighbours to their assistance, came in after him. They knock'd so furiously at our door that my father was very much frighten'd, and sent me into the next room. The moment he let them in, he was seized by a man whom he seem'd to know ; for he was struck quite speechless at the sight of him, and remain'd some time without answering several reproaches and accusations which I heard very distinctly. He was call'd a traitor, and a rogue who had long escap'd the hands of Justice, and who shou'd now pay dear for his thefts and treachery. He made no attempt to justify himself, and finding it impossible to escape, went without resistance before a Cadi or Magistrate. As soon as I was a little come to myself, I cover'd my head with a veil, and follow'd them at a distance ; and as causes are tried publicly, found but little difficulty in getting near enough to hear what was alledged against him, and the sentence which immediately follow'd his confession. He was charged with seducing the wife of a Greek Lord whose steward he was, with running  
away



away with her and a daughter of two years old whom she had by her husband, and with robbing his Master at the same time of every thing which he found in the house that was most valuable. Not being able to deny his crimes, he only endeavoured to excuse them, by calling Heaven to witness that he only yielded to the importunities of the Lady, that she alone was guilty of the robbery, and that he had not made the least advantage of it; having himself been so unfortunate as to be stript of all he had, and to be reduced to the greatest distress. When he was asked what was become of the mother and her daughter, he protested they were both dead. Notwithstanding my shame of being descended from such a father, my grief was just ready to break forth into cries and tears, when he entreated the Cadi to hear him a few words in private. What he said seem'd to have soften'd the Judge, and served at least to defer the execution of his sentence. He was lead to prison, and a delay so contrary to custom was look'd upon as a good omen. As for me, the best course that I cou'd think of in such deplorable circumstances was to return to our lodgings, and there wait the event of so melancholy an affair. But coming near the house, I saw a great mob about the door; and enquiring the occasion of it, was told what I knew but too well before, with this addition, that all my father's effects were seized: For the goods of Criminals it seems according to the custom of this City, are all forfeited as soon as the sentence of their death is pronounced. This was such an addition to my sorrows, that not being able to conceal myself, I conjured a Turkish woman to have some compassion on the wretched daughter of the Greek who had been just condemned to die. She lifted up my veil to observe my countenance,

tenance, and seeming to be affected by my tears, led me into her house with the consent of her husband. They greatly magnified the services which they did me, and the terror I was in did it yet more. I left them to dispose of me as they pleased, and thought I ow'd them the life which they promised to take care of. I had however the same hopes which every body else had conceived from the delay of the Cadi. But in a few days my Hosts informed me of my father's execution.

In a City where I knew no soul, at the age of fifteen, with so little knowledge of the world, and stung to the heart by so mortifying a disgrace, I thought myself condemned for the rest of my life to misfortune and wretchedness. The desperation of my condition made me reflect on the former part of my life, in order to find some rule to conduct myself by for the future. By all the traces of it which remain'd, I found that my education had turn'd upon two principles; by one I was taught to regard men as the only source of the felicity of women, and by the other that we might by complaisance, submission, and fondness acquire a sort of empire over them, which would in their turn make them dependant on us, and enable us to obtain of them every thing that is requisite to our happiness. Whatever I found incomprehensible in the designs of my father, I remember'd that all his views were directed towards wealth and plenty. As he had taken great pains to cultivate my natural endowments since our arrival at Constantinople, so he was perpetually telling me that I might reasonably hope for a thousand advantages above the generality of my sex. He may therefore rather be said to have expected them from me, than to have had the power of procuring them: or if his address was to open me  
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the way and point out the means, I was to make those means successful, and to procure for him part of the riches to which he made me aspire. And has his death, said I, deprived me of the benefits which he has a thousand times told me I have received of Nature ? This way of reasoning, which daily gather'd new strength, put a thought into my head, by which I fancied I might be enabled to discharge the debt of gratitude which I ow'd to my Hosts. This was to tell them in what my father supposed I might be useful, and to inspire them with the same hopes which he had. I was so delighted with this scheme, that I resolved to impart it to them the next day.

But a thought which my simplicity had suggested to me, had not failed to offer itself to persons who had much more experience and cunning. Some charms in the face of a Stranger, who had no acquaintance nor friends at Constantinople, were the only motive which induced my Turkish Hostess to concern herself in my affairs. She had in concert with her husband laid a scheme which she hoped to bring me to approve of ; and the very day in which I design'd to acquaint her with mine, was that which she had chosen to inform me of hers. She ask'd me several questions concerning my family and the place of my birth, both which seem'd by the answers I made to favour her designs. Having at last complimented me upon my beauty, she offer'd to make me happy even beyond my wishes, if I would follow her counsels and give myself up to her conduct. I know a rich Merchant, says she, who is passionately fond of women, and who denies them nothing that may contribute to their satisfaction. He has ten already, but the handsomest of them is much inferior to you ; and as you will certainly engross his whole affection, you need not doubt, but that



he will do more for you than for all the others. She expatiated very much on the affluence in which he lived, and concluded with telling me, that I ought not to question the testimony of her and her husband, since they had both been long employ'd in his service, and were daily astonished at the blessings which their Prophet shower'd down on so worthy a man.

She finish'd this picture with a great deal of art; and I was the rather inclined to like it, because she had prevented and spared me the pain and confusion of communicating my design to her. But I found only half of what I aim'd at, in the Lover she proposed: My father had always taught me to aspire to elevation of rank as well as riches. The name of a Merchant suited ill with my pride. I made this objection to my Hosts, who were so far from allowing it to be a reasonable one, that they insisted the more on my accepting the offers which were made me, and seem'd at last to be greatly affronted by my scruples and resistance. I perceived that what they affected to leave to my choice, had been settled and agreed on before between themselves, and perhaps with the Merchant also in whose name they acted. This made me the more averse from their proposal; but dissembling my displeasure, I desired 'till next morning to determine. The reflections which I made during the rest of the day having encreased my reluctance, I thought at night of a project which you would attribute to despair, were I not to assure you that I resolv'd upon it with great tranquillity. As soon as I imagined that my Hosts were asleep, I left their house in the same condition in which I first came to it, and rambled all alone up and down the streets of Constantinople, with the extravagant design of applying to some person of distinction to take care of my fortune. A scheme  
which



which was concerted so ill, cou'd hardly succeed well. But I did not find out this 'till the morning; when having past the night in great perplexity, I saw no probability of extricating myself out of it even when the day appeared. I found no body in the streets from whom I cou'd expect more assistance than from those I had forsaken. Tho' I cou'd easily distinguish the houses of the Great, yet I saw no probability of gaining admission; and my timorousness with which I had so long struggled, getting at length the better of my courage, I thought myself more wretched than I was immediately after the death of my father. I shou'd have returned from whence I came, had it been possible for me to have found my way thither. Being now fully convinced of my folly, I was terribly frighten'd, and look'd upon my ruin as inevitable.

I was as ignorant all this while of the evils which threaten'd me, as of the means of procuring the condition I sought after. My fears had no fixt object, and hunger, with which I began to be sorely oppress'd, was at present my greatest calamity. Chance, which was my only guide, having led me to the Slave-Market, I asked who a troop of women, whom I saw drawn up in a rank under an arch, were. I was no sooner told for what they were designed, but I look'd upon this as a very lucky opportunity for me. I went to them, and taking my post at one end of their line, flatter'd myself if I had the perfections of which my father had so often boasted, that I shou'd not be long without being taken notice of. As the faces of all my Companions were veil'd, I did not immediately gratify the desire which I had of showing mine. The Market was now begun; and I cou'd not see several persons busy in viewing women who seem'd to me of very little value, without  
being

being very impatient to lift up my veil. Nobody observed that I was a Stranger in the troop, or guess'd at the design which brought me thither. As soon as I shew'd my face, the spectators, amaz'd at my youth and person, all flock'd about me. I heard them enquiring on all sides to whom I belonged, and the Slave-Merchants themselves were surpris'd and ask'd the same question: And as nobody cou'd satisfy them, they applied at last to me. I told them I was to be sold, and ask'd, in my turn, who they were who were willing to purchase me. So extraordinary an adventure drew a still greater crowd about me. The Merchants as well as others offer'd me terms, which I disdain'd. Some answer'd my questions concerning their name, rank and fortune; which not satisfying my ambition, I persisted to reject their offers. Another accident greatly encreas'd the astonishment of my admirers. I saw at a distance a woman who had something to eat, and being cruelly pinch'd by hunger, ran to her, and conjured her to relieve my urgent necessity. She granted my request, and I devoured the food she gave me with a greediness which surpris'd all who saw it. I beheld compassion in some, curiosity in others, and looks of love and desire in the faces of almost all the men. These impressions which I fancied I discover'd, supported the opinion which I had of myself, and persuaded me that this scene would end to my advantage.

After a thousand questions which I refused to answer, the crowd gave way to a man, who as he was going by had enquired the occasion of it, and was coming to satisfy his curiosity. Though the respect which was shown him, dispos'd me to receive him with more complaisance, yet I did not vouchsafe to reply to the questions he ask'd me, 'till I had learnt from his own mouth that he was  
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the Steward or Superintendant of Bassa Cheriber. I desired to know several particulars concerning his Master, and was told that he had been Bassa of Egypt, and was immensely rich. After this, if you find me capable, said I in a whisper, of pleasing your Master, pray be so good as to present me to him. He did not suffer me to make this request a second time, but taking me by the hand, led me to his chariot which he had quitted to come and see me. I heard the murmurs of those who saw me escape, and their conjectures upon an event which appeared to them more mysterious than ever.

As we went along the Bassa's Steward ask'd me what were my views, and by what accident a young Greek, as by my dress he perceived me to be, happen'd to be in the Market alone and at her own disposal. I told him a story which was not very improbable, but betray'd in it simplicity enough to make him conclude that he might make an advantage of the service which he was going to do his Master. The joy I felt at falling into such good hands made me lose all my views of interest, and think of nothing but how I might show my gratitude to my benefactor. I made no objection to the Steward's request of owning that he had bought me of a Slave-Merchant. He promised on this condition to do me so many good offices with the Bassa, that I shou'd soon obtain the first rank in his esteem, and he instructed me before-hand in the methods I must take to please him. And having indeed prejudiced him in my favour, my first reception fell very little short of my most raised ideas. I was settled in an apartment as magnificent as any of those which you saw there, and passed several days alone, to receive the instructions which were to fit me for my station,



tion. And all this time, in which I had the pleasure of being attended with the greatest assiduity, and of being gratified in all my desires and even my most extravagant whimsies, I was really as happy as any chimerical blessings cou'd render me. My satisfaction was even encreased, when after a fortnight's preparation, the Bassa told me that he thought me more amiable than all his other women, and added to the favours I had already received such a profusion of new ones as glutted my utmost wishes. Age had made him moderate in his desires, but he visited me regularly several times a day; and my vivacity and the chearful air which discover'd itself in all I said or did, seem'd to amuse him. This situation, in which I lived some months, was without doubt the happiest of my whole life. But I insensibly grew too familiar with the things which charmed me so much at first, and quickly lost all relish of a happiness with which my senses were no longer affected. My pride was not only not sooth'd with the readiness with which I was obey'd, but I had nothing left to command. The splendor of my apartment, the profusion and lustre of my jewels, and the sumptuousness of my apparel, wore no longer the illusive forms in which I first beheld them. In a thousand uneasy moments in which I was a burden to myself, I address'd myself to every thing that surrounded me: Make me happy said I to my gold and jewels, but they were deaf and answer'd me not. I knew not what was the matter with me, and fancied myself attack'd by some disease to which I was a stranger. I imparted my thoughts to the Bassa, who had observed the alteration of my temper. I had discover'd a passion for Painting, and was constantly attended by a Master to teach me that art; but I pass'd however some part of every day alone. And the Bassa imagining  
that



that this might be the occasion of my melancholy, made me a proposal of entering into the common apartment of the women, from whom I had been separated only by way of distinction. The novelty of this quicken'd my senses a little: I was diverted by their dancing and little parties of pleasure, and flatter'd myself as we were in the same circumstances, that there might be a similitude in our complexions and inclinations. They were not very ready to be acquainted with me, and I was soon disgusted with their company; their desires being low and grovelling, and not at all correspondent with mine tho' I hardly knew what they were. In this society I lived near four months, without at all concerning myself with the transactions of it; faithful to my Master, endeavouring to offend no body, and more beloved by my Companions than I desired to be. The Bassa, without being more remiss in his care of his Seraglio, began to lose the inclination which had in so particular a manner attached him to me. This wou'd have given me great uneasiness at first, but as if my passions had changed with my humour, I now beheld his coldness with equal indifference. I fell sometimes into fits of musing and pensiveness, of which I remember'd nothing when I came to myself. My desires, methought, were more extensive than my ideas, and my soul seem'd to thirst after I knew not what. I ask'd myself here, as I had done in my separate apartment, why I was wretched in the possession of all I had wished for? Or whether in a place in which I had imagined that all blessings were collected together, there might not be some untasted bliss, capable of dissipating my clouds of grief and melancholy. You saw me amusing myself with my pencil; 'tis the only pleasure of which I had any relish left: And even this, tho' I never knew for what

what reason, would frequently seem tasteless and insipid, for a long time together.

This was my situation when the Bassa introduced you into his Seraglio. This favour, which he had never granted any body before, made me wait with great impatience for the event of it. He commanded us to dance, which I did with unusual thoughtfulness and distraction of mind; and my uneasiness soon made me return to my place. I know not what I was thinking of when you came to me, but am persuaded whatever question you ask'd me, that my answer must have a tincture of my disquiet: But your rational discourse soon render'd me exceedingly attentive: A sweet-tuned instrument which I had never heard before, cou'd not have made a deeper impression. I never methought had heard any thing which tallied so exactly with my ideas; and in this I was more confirmed, when you informed me of the happiness of the women of your own Country, and told me in what it consisted, and what the men did to contribute to it. The names of Virtue, Honour, and Prudence, of which, from your bare mentioning of them, I form'd an idea, were in a moment as deeply rooted in my mind, as tho' they had been always familiar to me. I listened with the greatest eagerness to every thing you said, and never interrupted you by my questions, because my own heart instantly bore witness to the truth of all you utter'd. Cheriber put an end to this ravishing discourse; but I did not lose a single syllable of it: as soon as you was gone, I recollected even its minutest circumstances. It was all enchantment, and has from that moment been the only subject of my thoughts all the day, and of my dreams at night. There is then a Country, said I, where riches and honours are not the only blessings! There are men  
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who don't esteem beauty as the only merit of a woman! She may have other perfections to recommend her, and other joys to aim at! But how has it happen'd that I have never once dreamt of a felicity that is so enchanting and so suitable to my temper? Tho' I long'd for a farther explication of this matter which I never had an opportunity of asking of you, yet I found the violence of my desires sufficient to give me an high idea of the things which occasion'd such emotions. I shou'd not have paused a moment about quitting the Seraglio, had it been possible for me to get out. I shou'd have sought for you in every part of the City, to have learnt a thousand things which I longed to know, to have made you repeat what you had told me before, to have been charmed with your voice again, and glutted with a pleasure of which I had only tasted. There was one thing however that gave me some hopes, and it was that which made me use so little caution at first with the Superintendant of the Bassa. Not being born a Slave, nor having ever been sold, I was persuaded if I shou'd at any time happen to be weary of my condition, that no body could detain me against my will. I supposed therefore that I had nothing to do but to make my case known to the Bassa. But as I had sometimes an opportunity of seeing the Superintendant, who had the care of repairing the Seraglio, I resolv'd first of all to disclose my mind to him. He had kept his word with me; I was satisfied with his care and services, and did not doubt but that he was still as ready to oblige me as ever. As soon however as he understood the drift of my discourse, he assumed an air of great gravity and coldness, and seem'd to be entirely ignorant of the grounds of my pretensions; and when I offer'd to remind him of my story, was exceedingly astonish'd that I shou'd forget that



that he had bought me of a Slave Merchant. I plainly perceived that he had betray'd me ; but the violence of my grief did not however hinder me from considering that reproaches and complaints would be to no purpose. I entreated him with tears in my eyes to do me justice. But he used me in a rougher manner than he had ever done before ; and assuring me that I was inevitably a Slave for the rest of my life, advised me never to talk in this manner again, unless I desired that his Master shou'd be informed of it.

The clouds which had hitherto veil'd the wretchedness of my fate, were now entirely vanish'd. My reason had, I know not how, acquired more strength from the short conversation which I had with you, than from all the exercise I had given it from my infancy to that time. I was so heartily ashamed of the former part of my life, that I did not dare so much as to look back upon it ; and the principles which you had sown in my heart, render'd me as it were a new creature, and furnished me with an infinite number of reflections which made me see every thing with other eyes. In this cruel situation I found myself possess'd of surprising courage ; and being more determined than ever to open the gates of my prison, I thought it advisable to try a thousand methods of art and prudence before I had recourse to those of despair. That of discovering my designs to the Bassa seem'd to me to be the most dangerous. It would have expos'd me to his displeasure and to the malice of his Superintendant, and have made all other ways more difficult. It came into my head to apply to you ; to whom all the alteration which I found in myself was entirely owing, and from whom it must receive its perfection. I flattered myself as you was a little prepossess'd in my favour, that you would not refuse



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use me your assistance. My only difficulty was how to make you sensible of my need of it. I ventured to sound a Slave, who had been always very assiduous in attending me. She was as zealous as I cou'd desire to serve me, but as much a prisoner as myself, and it would have been criminal in her to have went out of the Seraglio. All therefore which she could do was to offer me the assistance of her brother, who was in the service of the Bassa. I resolv'd to run the the risk of accepting it, and gave my Slave the letter which you I doubt not received, since you could have no other motive to procure my liberty. But this step plunged me into a new difficulty for some days. One of my Companions, gueßing by the anxiety of my looks that I had some very extraordinary affair in hand, watched me so narrowly, that she saw me write and deliver my letter to the Slave. She soon found an opportunity of talking to me alone; and telling me what she had seen and that I was absolutely in her power, she in her turn entrusted me with an intrigue, in which she had been for some weeks engaged. She entertained a young Turk, who rashly ventured his life to visit her. He us'd to get along the top of the Seraglio 'till he was directly over her window, and to descend by means of a ladder of ropes. Tho' I had a communication with the other women of the Bassa, yet I still kept my first apartment to myself. The situation of it seem'd more commodious for the intrigue of my artful Companion; and what she desired of me was to conceal her Lover there for some days, where she might see him with more freedom than in her own chamber.

This proposition greatly alarm'd me, but my fears of being betray'd oblig'd me not to show my dislike of it. What she had rashly told me,  
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did not make it safe for me to deny her ; for I had no proof of the confession she had made, and she might upon my refusal have discontinued her commerce with her Gallant ; whereas my letter and the two Slaves I had entrusted, might at any time be evidences against me. I submitted therefore to every thing which she thought proper to impose upon me, and her Lover was introduced the next night. I was obliged, to deceive the Slaves who attended me, to quit my bed while they were asleep, and to conduct the Turk into a closet of which I had always the key. This was the place in which my Companion proposed to entertain him in the day time. It required some dexterity to shun the eyes of a great number of women and Slaves ; but as the Seraglio was very secure, they were not much alarmed at missing us now and then, and its numerous apartments were very favourable to these little excursions.

The young Turk, tho' he had only seen me for a moment or two by the light of a wax-candle, had conceived the same sentiments for me which he had for my Companion. In the first visit which she made him by the means of my key which I had given her, she observed a coldness in him which she could not long ascribe to his fears. He endeavour'd to find reasons for wishing that I might be present at one part of their interview ; but they were so frivolous, that she immediately suspected his infidelity, and resolved to satisfy her doubts. I did not oppose the request which she made of giving her my company. Her Gallant shewed so little regard for her, that I was greatly shock'd at his behaviour, and highly approv'd her resolution to send him away the next night. The confusion which this gave him only encreased her jealousy, and his eyes too plainly told me that I

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was the occasion of it. But his punishment was much greater than his crime. As she was helping him to get out of the window, she cruelly threw him down, and he was kill'd by his fall. She herself inform'd me the next day of the barbarous manner in which she had revenged her injuries.

She did not consider that he had drawn his rope ladder after him, and that this and the unhappy condition he was in, would presently discover the nature of his enterprize. But it was not however easy to know from which window he had fallen, because there were several which look'd into the same court. But the alarm in Cheriber's house was not the less on this account, and the effects of it immediately reach'd the Seraglio. He himself question'd all his women, and order'd all suspected places to be searched ; but no discovery was made, and I was astonish'd at the great composure and tranquillity with which my Comrade beheld the storm she had rais'd. The Superintendent at length mistrusted me, but did not impart his suspicions to his Master. He told me as he knew the chimeras of which my head was so full, he did not doubt but that it was I who had disturbed the peace of the Seraglio, and design'd perhaps to procure my liberty by a criminal correspondence. The threats by which he endeavour'd to extort a confession from me, occasioned me little concern ; but when he talk'd of seizing the Slaves I had trusted, I gave myself over for lost. He observed my consternation ; and being about to execute his purposes, laid me under a necessity of telling him what I cou'd not suffer him to find out himself, without exposing the wretched Slaves to perish by the cruellest tortures. Thus an enquiry into the irregularities of another was the cause of my discovering myself. I own'd  
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to the Superintendant that I was endeavouring to obtain my liberty by means which the Bassa himself would approve; and I assured him that I would no longer insist on it as my right, nor think of obtaining it but as a Slave, and at the price which the Bassa should demand for it. He asked me to whom I had applied, and I was obliged to tell him to you. My sincerity was the means of concealing the intrigue of my Companion; and the Superintendant seeming to be pleased with what I had told him, assured me that he would willingly in this shape contribute to my satisfaction.

His good nature surprised as much as his rigor had terrified me, and I am still ignorant of the motives of it. But being overjoy'd at seeing so great an obstacle removed out of my way, I sent several times to you to know if my prayers had made any impression upon you. Your answer was doubtful. I am at present however happily convinced by experience that you condescended to think of a miserable Slave, and that I owe my liberty to the most generous of all mankind.

If the Reader has made but a few of the reflections in perusing this relation which I did in hearing it, he will naturally expect those which follow. I found the Genius of this young Greek did not fall short of the description which Cheriber had given me of it. I was even astonished, as Nature had been her only Tutor, at her ranging her adventures in so much order, and that she shou'd, in her account of her contemplations and musings, give such a Philosophical turn to the greatest part of her ideas. Her method of explaining them was very judicious, and 'tis impossible to suspect that she borrow'd them of others, in a Country where subjects of this kind are very rarely studied. I concluded therefore that I  
discover'd



discover'd in her a very strong and fruitful Genius, which being accompanied by a very striking person, wou'd without doubt render her a very extraordinary woman. There was nothing in her story that seem'd at all improbable to me ; for in the few months which I had been at Constantinople, I had daily heard stranger adventures of Slaves of her sex, and the sequel of this History will furnish the Reader with several. Neither was I surpris'd at the account which she gave of her education. All the Provinces of Turkey abound with infamous fathers, who train up their daughters for prostitution, and have no other trades to live by, nor any other hopes of advancing their fortune.

But when I consider'd the impressions which she pretended to have received from a momentary conversation, and the motives she might have of wishing to be obliged to me for her liberty ; I cou'd not easily believe that the simplicity and innocence of her air and behaviour were not assumed to serve her designs. The more I perceived of acuteness and wit, the more I was suspicious of artifice ; and the pains she several times took to make me observe her simplicity, was the very thing that made me suspect her. The sincerity of the Greeks is as much a proverb now as formerly. The most favourable construction therefore which I cou'd put upon her behaviour was, that being weary of a Seraglio, and charmed with the prospect of a life of greater freedom, she wanted to quit Cheriber only to change her condition ; and that she desired to inspire me with sentiments of affection, and imagined she attacked me in the weakest part, in making this use of my conversation with her. If I believed that there was any truth in her descriptions of the great emotions of her heart and mind, it was easy to assign the cause

cause of them, by supposing it impossible for one of her age to enjoy much pleasure with an Old man : And she herself indeed had taken notice of the moderation of the Bassa. And to conceal nothing, I was then in the prime of my life ; and cou'd not think it strange that my person, unless I have been greatly flatter'd, shou'd make an impression on a young girl who was immured in a Seraglio, and had, I supposed, as great a warmth of constitution as vivacity of mind. Besides, I observed, I thought, a vehemence in the expressions of her joy, which ill agreed with her Ideas of the former part of her life. Her great transports seem'd to be too sudden, and not to have sufficient grounds. For unless there was something miraculous in the change of her principles, what reason could she have to be so affected with the service I did her ; or was it possible for her in a moment to view with so much horror a situation against which she had no complaint, but a loathing which arises from satiety ? From all these reflections, some of which I made during the time of her telling me her story, I drew this conclusion ; that I had done a piece of service to an amiable woman of which I ought not to repent, but which any other beautiful Slave had as good a title to and might as reasonably expect ; and tho' I beheld her person with amazement, which was heighten'd by the desire I fancied she had of pleasing me, that the single thought of her coming out of the arms of Cheriber after having been in those of another Turk, and perhaps of numberless others whom she had not mention'd, wou'd outweigh and always be a sufficient check to any temptations to which the heat of my youth might expose me.

I was very desirous to hear what she design'd to do. She cou'd not but know that I had no power, as she was free, to compel her to any thing, and that I expected her to explain her views; but I did not ask her any questions about them, neither did she seem in haste to explain herself. Having again mention'd our European women, and the maxims in which they are educated, she made me enter into an hundred particulars concerning which I took a pleasure to satisfy her. The night was far advanced, before I perceived that it was time for me to retire. As she had not mention'd her design, and had been perpetually talking of her happiness, gratitude, and the pleasure she had in hearing me; I renew'd the offers of my service when I went away, and assured her, as long as she was satisfied with the house and care of her Hosts, that she shou'd want for nothing. She took her leave of me in the most affectionate manner; calling me her Master, her Lord, her Father, and all the endearing names which are familiar to women in all the countries of the East.

After having dispatched some affairs of importance, I could not go to bed without making a review of all the circumstances of my visit. They recur'd to me in my dreams. I was full of them when I waked in the morning, and sent before I got up to know how Theofa had rested. I felt however no desires which gave me uneasiness; but my imagination perpetually dwelling upon her charms, which were I supposed entirely at my disposal, I consulted my delicacy with regard to the resistance it had formerly made to my engaging with her in a commerce of pleasure. I consider'd to what lengths it was reasonable to carry its scruples. Can the caresses of her two former Lovers imprint any stains upon her? Or shou'd I

make that a matter of disgust, which were it unknown wou'd not be so? Do not blemishes of this kind very soon wear out, especially in girls of her age? Besides, what appeared most credible in her story, was that she had hitherto been a stranger to all amorous desires. She is hardly sixteen. Cheriber was incapable of inspiring her with them, and she was too young to be sensible of them when she lived at Patras, even tho' she were not so averse from the Governor's son as she pretends. I made many more reflections of this kind, fancied there would be a world of pleasure in teaching her the first rudiments of Love, and that I had already been happy enough to give her some knowledge of it. This thought silenced my scruples more than all my reasoning. I rose a quite different person from what I was when I went to bed; and if I did not propose to finish the affair, I resolved at least to take some steps towards it before night.

I was invited to dine with the Seliotar. He ask'd me a great many questions concerning my Slave; but telling him that she ought no longer to bear that name, and assuring him that she was entirely at her own disposal, I confirm'd him in his opinion of my indifference. He thought himself therefore authoris'd to ask where she was. This question gave me a good deal of confusion; and I did not know how to avoid answering it but by a little rallery upon the rest which she wanted on coming out of Cheriber's Seraglio, and on the ill office which I shou'd do her in discovering her retreat. But the Seliotar swore so heartily that she had nothing to fear from his importunities, and that he had no design of troubling her or of compelling her to any thing; that I cou'd not with any decency seem to distrust his protestations, after he had reposed so much confidence in mine.



I told him therefore where she was, and he renew'd his promise with an air of sincerity that made me perfectly easy. Our conversation then turn'd upon Theofa's extraordinary merit. He confess'd that he had never in all his life been so much affected by beauty, and that he had found the utmost difficulty in curbing the violence of his passion. The reason said he, of my so readily consenting to give her up to you, was an apprehension that my weakness might encrease with my knowledge of her, and my love of Justice soon prove too weak an antagonist to cope with my inclinations. This was the language of a man of honour. And there are indeed few nations which have a greater regard for equity than the Turks.

Whilst he was thus displaying his noble sentiments, word was brought that Bassa Cheriber was at the door, that he immediately appeared with marks of wrath and indignation in his face, of which we were eager to ask him the cause. He was as much the Seliotar's friend as mine, and it was owing to the recommendation of the one that I lived so familiarly with the other. He answer'd us by throwing a bag, which contain'd my thousand crowns, at our feet. What a misfortune it is, said he, to be the dupes of our Slaves ! There is the money, adds he, addressing himself to the Seliotar, of which my Steward has robb'd you : And 'tis not his only theft. I have by the force of tortures extorted an horrible confession from him, and saved his life only to make him repeat it to you. I shou'd die with shame if this infamous wretch shou'd not do me justice. He ask'd the Seliotar's leave to have him brought in ; but we both intreated him first to prepare us for this scene by giving us some information about it.

He told us that one of his servants, who was jealous of his Superintendant's power, and therefore very watchful of him, perceived that the Seliſtar's Eunuch, who was ſent for the young Slave, paid the Superintendant a good deal of money before ſhe was deliver'd to him; and that not ſuſpecting any harm, and only out of curioſity to know what ſhe was ſold for, he had mention'd what he had ſeen to the Superintendant; who being in the utmoſt confuſion at having been ſurprized, conjured him to take no notice of the matter, and gave him a round ſum of money to engage him to keep the ſecret. This was only a ſpur to the other's deſire of ruining him. Not doubting therefore but that he had been guilty of ſome treachery for which he was afraid of being puniſhed, he immediately diſcover'd his ſuſpicions to the Baſſa, who eaſily found out the truth. The Superintendant being greatly terrified by the threats of his Maſter, confeſs'd that when the Seliſtar came with a view of buying the young Greek, he heard the Baſſa proteſt, after ſeveral compliments about the price of her ranſom, that he would not take any for her, and that he thought himſelf exceeding happy in having it in his power to oblige ſo illuſtrious a Friend. Obſerving that they parted without having thoroughly ſettled the matter, he follow'd the Seliſtar, and told him, as tho' he had been ſent by the Baſſa, that ſince he perſiſted in not accepting of the Slave as a preſent, he ſhou'd pay a thouſand crowns for her; adding that he was order'd to receive the money, and to deliver her to any body whom the Seliſtar ſhou'd ſend for her. Cheriber, on the contrary, had commanded his Superintendant to carry the Slave to his Friend, and did not in the leaſt miſtruſt the account he had given him of his having punctually obey'd his orders. But finding that he himſelf  
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had not been less imposed on than the Seliſtar, he was in a violent paſſion, and took it for granted that this was not the only inſtance of treachery in a man whom he had blindly entruſted with the management of all his affairs. In order therefore to make him confeſs his other crimes as well as to puniſh him for this, he cauſed him to be ſeverely tortured in his preſence, and by that means forced him to diſcover his other rogueries. His treachery to Theoſa ſeem'd to Cheriber to be one of the blackeſt die. He cou'd not forgive the wrongs which he had occaſion'd him to do to a perſon who was free. Far from treating her as a Slave, ſaid he, I ſhou'd have look'd upon her as my daughter, been ſorry for her diſtreſs, and taken care of her fortune; and am greatly ſurpriſed that ſhe never complain'd to me of her injuries.

I was much leſs ſurpriſed at this account than the Seliſtar; but concealing what it was not neceſſary to tell them, I talk'd to Cheriber in ſuch a manner as made the Seliſtar imagine that I was ſorry that I had concern'd myſelf in this affair. The Superintendant being brought in, the Baſſa commanded him to give an account of the circumſtances in which he found the young Greek, and by what arts he had ſo far impoſed upon her ſimplicity as to make her willing to paſs for a Slave. We were little concerned at the fate of this wretch, who was immediately ſent to ſuffer the puniſhment he deſerved.

The Seliſtar after this made no difficulty about taking my money again, which he ſent the next day to my houſe. And reſuming our diſcourſe about Theoſa, the moment that Cheriber left us, with more eagereſs than ever, he ask'd me what I thought of ſo ſingular an adventure. If ſhe was not educated with a view of being a

Slave, says he, she is certainly much better descended than she seems to be. And he supposed this, because though people in mean circumstances often bestow a good education upon young persons of extraordinary beauty or genius, in order to make them sell the better; yet in all other cases, in Turkey as well as other Countries, it is a sign of their being well born: Just as in France we are not surpris'd at the graceful airs and easy manners of a dancing Master, which wou'd make us conclude a Stranger to be a person of condition. I took my leave of the Selihtar without letting him know that I could clear up his doubts. But I was however very much struck with his reflection; and recollecting that part of Theofa's story which related to the death of her father, wonder'd that I had taken so little notice of his running away with a Greek Lady and her daughter. I thought it not impossible but that Theofa might be this daughter of two years old who was lost with her mother. But how can I get any light into this matter? And wou'd not she herself have had some suspicion, if she had found any resemblance between that story and her own? I resolv'd, however, the next time I saw her, to ask her some questions about this affair, in order to satisfy my curiosity.

My Valet de Chambre being the only one of my Domestics who knew of my correspondence with Theofa, I resolv'd to keep it secret, and never to go to my Language Master's but in the evening. I went thither as soon as it was dusk. He told me a Gentleman-like Turk had been there about an hour before, and prest very earnestly to see the young Greek, whom he call'd Zara, which is the name she went by in the Seraglio; and that she had not consented to see him. The Turk after expressing a good deal of uneasiness at this re-

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refusal, gave the Language Master a casket and a letter written in the Turkish manner, which he desired might be deliver'd to her as soon as he was gone. Theofa had refused to receive either of them, and the Language Master gave them to me. I took them along with me into her apartment, and being more desirous than she to dive into the bottom of this affair, desired her to open the letter in my presence. It was easier for me than for her to perceive that it was a specimen of the Selictar's gallantry. The phrases were all studied; but seem'd however to proceed from a heart that was sensible of her charms. He desired her not to be under any apprehensions with regard to her fortune, as he had nothing which she might condescend to wish for but what was at her command, and called a large sum of money and several rich presents which he had sent her only a small sample of his generosity. I told her from whom I imagined this letter came; adding, to give her an opportunity of discovering her sentiments, that the Selictar's esteem for her was equal to his love, since he no longer look'd upon her as a Slave. But she seem'd to care so little what he thought of her, that I went entirely into her opinion, and returned the casket to the Language Master, to be restored to any messenger whom the Selictar might send next. She seem'd a little concern'd at first at having open'd the letter, as it deprived her of the pretence of being ignorant of its contents; but making another reflection which was entirely her own, she resolved to answer it, and I longed to know what terms she would use. A Lady who had lived all her days at Paris, and whose knowledge of the world was equal to her wit and beauty, would have wrote exactly in the same strain, in order to extinguish the passion and hopes

of a Lover. She gave her answer to the Language Master, and desired him at the same time, without the least affectation, to spare her all trouble of this kind for the future.

My vanity, I confess, made me construe this sacrifice in my favour ; and not having laid aside the scheme of which I was so full in the morning, I waded our conversation concerning the Solicitor's affairs, in order to turn it by degrees upon my own. But I myself was interrupted by an infinite number of sensible reflections which dropt naturally from Theofa, and ow'd I perceived their birth to some slight hints I had given her the night before. Her mind, which was naturally inclined to meditation, seized upon nothing which it did not immediately turn and view in all its lights ; and this I found had been her only employment ever since I left her. She asked me a thousand new questions, as tho' she had thought of nothing but of laying in subjects of contemplation for the ensuing night. If she was struck with any custom of our Country, or any principle which she had not heard before, she was in a moment all attention ; and sometimes pray'd me to repeat it for fear she shou'd forget it, or not have comprehended the full sense of my words. During this grave conversation, she was perpetually dropping expressions of the gratitude she owed me ; but had always thrown me so far wide of the mark I aim'd at by something that preceded these tender emotions, that I cou'd never recover myself soon enough to reap any benefit from them. Besides, as she diverted our discourse so soon to other subjects by some new question, these interruptions were so short that I was under a continual necessity of appearing more grave and serious than I desired.

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The ardor with which she perpetually return'd to this kind of Philosophy, hardly gave me time to tell her the doubts which the Seliſtar had occaſion'd to ariſe in my mind concerning her parents. As I had, however, no need of any preparation to mention her father, I deſired her to ſuſpend for a moment her curioſity and reflections. I have a ſuſpicion, ſays I, which is, as you'll preſently perceive, owing to my admiration of you ; but before I acquaint you with it, I want to be informed whether you ever knew your mother. She ſaid that ſhe had not the leaſt remembrance of her. What, continued I, don't you know at what age you loſt her ? Can't you tell, for inſtance, whether it was before the crime of which your father was accuſed ; or whether ſhe was a different perſon from the Greek Lady who run away from her huſband, and was accompanied, if I rightly remember the account, by a daughter of two years old.

She bluſh'd, tho' I did not yet know why, and fixt her eyes very earneſtly upon me. At length, breaking the ſilence which ſhe had obſerved for ſome time ; have you, ſaid ſhe, hit upon the ſame thought as I, or have you by accident got any light concerning a doubt which I never ventured to diſcloſe to any body ? I know not your thoughts, replied I ; but you are diſtinguiſh'd from common women by ſo many admirable qualifications, that I can't believe that you were born of ſuch an infamous father as you repreſented yours to be ; and the more ignorant you are with regard to the firſt years of your life, the more I am inclined to believe you the daughter of the Greek Lord, with whoſe Lady the wretch, who falſly call'd you his, run away. This declaration had a ſurpriſing effect upon her. Ah ! this is what I have long thought, ſaid ſhe, without

daring to credit it entirely. Do you believe then that there is any probability in it? Her eyes overflow'd with tears as she asked me the question. Alas! continued she, why do you make me recollect a thought which can only add to my shame and misfortunes!

Without examining what sense she affixed to these words, I diverted her melancholy ideas, by telling her that she had on the contrary nothing happier to wish for, than to find that the villain, who had usurped that title, was not her father. And her doubt concerning this matter being a confirmation of mine, I desired her to recollect every thing she cou'd concerning her infancy, and to tell me if at her father's tryal before the Cadi she had not heard the name of the Greek Lady whose daughter I supposed her to be, or at least that of the persons who accused and brought to punishment the wretched author of all her misfortunes. But she remember'd nothing. I hoped however to learn something from the Cadi before whom he was tried, and promised Theofa to get all the information I cou'd the next day. Thus an evening which I hoped to have employ'd in a gallanter manner, was spent in discussions concerning her fortune and affairs.

I reproach'd myself, when I went away, for having been so ceremonious with a woman who came out of a Seraglio; especially after the account which she herself had given me of other circumstances of her life. I ask'd my own heart, if she had as much inclination for me as I supposed, whether I was inclined to keep her as a mistress; and finding myself much less averse than I was at first from a correspondence of this nature, I thought I might, without taking such a compass, plainly propose it to her. If she embraced my offer with all the pleasure I imagined, I had no-  
thing



thing to fear from the Seliſtar's paſſion, ſince he had aſſured me himſelf that he would leave her entirely to her own diſpoſal, and compel her to nothing : And tho' the enquiries which I was going to make concerning her parents, might raiſe her a little in my idea, yet as they cou'd not poſſibly wipe off her diſgrace, they cou'd ſerve only to encreaſe my inclination for her, without rendering her at all leſs proper for the commerce in which I was willing to engage her. I reſolved therefore to put my deſign in execution. And the Reader may obſerve how far from being violent, and of what kind the paſſion which I felt for her was.

Going the next day to the Cadi, I reminded him of the affair of a certain Greek whom he had condemned to die ſometime ſince. He remember'd it ſo perfectly that in relating the particulars, he gave me the pleaſure of hearing him ſeveral times repeat the names which I wanted to know. The name of the Greek Lord, whoſe Lady had been inveigled away, was *Paniota Condoidi* ; and it was he himſelf who diſcover'd the Raviſher in one of the ſtreets of the City, and cauſed him to be apprehended. But the ſatiſfaction of being revenged, added the Cadi, was the only one which he received from this affair ; for he did not recover either his wife, his daughter, or jewels. I wonder'd at this reflection, becauſe all proper methods had, I thought, been neglected ; and I diſcover'd my ſurpriſe to the Cadi. What cou'd I do more, ſaid he ? The criminal proteſted that the lady and her daughter were both dead ; and he was certainly ſincere in this, ſince his only method to ſave his life would have been to have produced them, had they been living. As ſoon therefore as he heard his ſentence, he endeavour'd to amuſe me with idle ſtories ; but I preſently per-

perceived that he only meant to impose upon me.

As I remember'd that the execution of his sentence had been defer'd, I ask'd the Cadi the occasion of it. He told me the Criminal having desired to speak with him in private, had offer'd, to save his life, not only to show him Condoidi's daughter, but to deliver her up to him for his Seraglio; and that he had been artful enough to give an air of probability to the detail he gave him of her story. But that all the steps which he had taken to find her out proving ineffectual, he supposed at last that the wretch had told a lie only to retard his punishment; and that this artifice had heighten'd his indignation against him, and served only to hasten his death.

I cou'd not help making some reflections on the conduct of this supreme Judge of the Turks. What hinder'd you, said I, from reprieving your Prisoner for a few days longer, and taking time to procure informations in the places where he had lived since his commission of the fact? Cou'd not you have forced him to tell you where the Greek Lady died, and by what accident he lost her? In short, was it not easy to have unravel'd even the minutest circumstances of this affair? This is our method in Europe, added I, and if we have not more zeal than you for equity, we are at least more quick-sighted and diligent in our searches after guilt. He thought my advice so just, that he thank'd me for it; and some discourse which I had with him about the exercise of his office, convinced me that there is more gravity than knowledge in the Tribunals of the Turks.

I got out of the Cadi not only the name of the Greek Lord but his place of abode also, which was

was a little City of the Morea which the Turks call *Acade*. I did not at first think it easy to find a communication with it, and thought of applying to the Bassa of the Province ; but being informed that there were many Slave-Merchants of that country in the City, I was fortunate enough to be assured by the first that I went to, that Condoidi had been in Constantinople upwards of a year, and that he was well known to all his Countrymen. My only difficulty now was to find out his house, and this the Slave-Merchant soon did for me. I went thither immediately ; and my hopes encreasing with the success that attended my enquiries, I did not doubt but that I was on the brink of the discovery which I sought after. The house and appearance of the Greek Lord gave me no great opinion of his wealth. He was one of those ancient families which retain less of the lustre than of the pride of their noble descent ; and which under the subjection in which they are held by the Turks, would not dare, even tho' they had estates sufficient, to live in a more ostentatious manner. Condoidi, who had in short the air of a Country Gentleman, received me civilly without enquiring who I was, for I had sent home my equipage, when I took my leave of the Cadi ; and seeming to hear me without any impatience, gave me an opportunity of saying all I designed. After I had let him know that I was not ignorant of the misfortunes of his family, I desired that he would excuse my interesting myself in the affairs of it, and pardon a curiosity which he could easily satisfy. What I wanted was to hear from his own mouth how long since he had lost his wife and daughter. He told me it was about fourteen or fifteen years. This space agreed so exactly with Theofa's age, that I thought

thought my doubts half satisfied. Do you think replied I, notwithstanding the declaration of the Ravisher, that it is impossible that one of them shou'd be alive; and if you wish that this one might be your daughter, wou'd you not think yourself greatly obliged to any body that shou'd put you in a way of finding her? I expected that this question wou'd have given him some emotions of joy. But seeming to be quite indifferent about it, he told me that time, which had allay'd the smart of his loss, made him also not wish for a miracle to repair it; that he had several sons, who wou'd find it difficult, with the estate he had to leave them, to maintain the honour of their birth; and that tho' he cou'd suppose that his daughter were living, yet it was so impossible for her to have imbibed any principles of virtue and honour in the hands of such an abandon'd villain and such a country as Turkey, that he shou'd never prevail on himself to think her worthy of being received into his family again.

His last objection appeared to me to be the strongest. But I resolved, as he seem'd to have lost all natural affection, to do all I cou'd to inspire him with it. I shall not, replied I pretty warmly, examine the weight of your scruples or reasons, because they can't lessen the certainty of a matter of fact. Your daughter is living. I can say nothing as to her virtue; but will venture to assure you, that you will find no defects in her wit or her beauty. I will let you know where you may see her immediately. I desired a pen and ink, and having written a direction to my Language Master's, took my leave.

I was persuaded if he was not quite insensible, that he cou'd not resist the impulse of Nature; and was so full of this thought, that I went directly



rectly to the Language Master's, where I supposed that he would be as soon perhaps as I, to be present at so agreeable an interview. I did not go into Theofa's apartment, because I was willing to have the pleasure of seeing her surprised. But having waited some time, and supposing that Condoidi wou'd not come ; I let her know that I was now obliged to look upon her as his daughter, and told her all I had done to fulfil my promise. What the wretch who had abused her, told the Cadi with a view of saving his life, made a deeper impressiion upon her than any thing else. I shou'd not be much troubled, said she, at remaining uncertain with regard to my birth ; and tho' I were sure that I ow'd it to this Greek Lord, shou'd not much complain of his being unwilling to own me ; but I bend to Heaven with thanks for giving me a right to refuse the name of father to one whom more than all others I ought to hate and despise. She was so affected with this thought, that she told me twenty times with tears in her eyes, that she was in fact indebted to me for her birth, since I had given her a second in delivering her from the infamy of the first.

But I did not think my work finished yet, and being very intent upon it, made her a proposal of going along with me to Condoidi. Nature has arguments to use which the hardest heart can't always resist. I thought it impossible for him to see, to hear, and receive the embraces of his daughter, without feeling, whether he wou'd or not, the affections of a father. As he made no objection against the possibility of her being alive, I hoped that Nature wou'd triumph over all others. Theofa discovered some apprehension. Had I not better, said she, be unknown and concealed from all the world ? I did not understand

stand the cause of her concern, and almost forced her to go along with me.

The day was already far spent. I had past some part of it alone at the Language Master's, and the manners of persons who carry on intrigues by stealth being already familiar to me, had order'd my Valet de Chambre to bring my dinner thither. It began to be dusk before I had determin'd the young Greek to go along with me, and it was quite dark before we got to Condoidi's. He was not returned from the City, whither his affairs had call'd him in the afternoon; but one of his servants who had seen me there in the morning, asked me to go in and converse with his three sons till he came home. I not only accepted of this offer, but esteem'd it a very lucky one; and was introduced with Theofa, whose head was cover'd with a veil. I had hardly told the three young Gentlemen that I had made their father a visit in the morning, and was come again on the same errand, but they seem'd to know my business; and he whom I took by his air to be the eldest, answer'd me very coldly, that there was but little appearance of my making their father listen to so uncertain and improbable a story. I gave him a detail of the reasons which made me look upon it in another light, and having strengthen'd them by all the arguments I cou'd, desired Theofa to lift up her veil, to give them an opportunity of seeing some resemblance of themselves in her. The two elder look'd upon her with great coldness; but the younger who did not seem to be above eighteen, and who had struck me at first sight by the likeness which I saw he had of his sister, no sooner cast his eyes upon her but he ran to her with open arms, and gave her a thousand tender embraces, which Theofa not thinking her-  
self

self yet authoris'd to receive, modestly endeavour'd to avoid. But the other two did not leave her long in her confusion. They rudely snatched her out of the arms of their brother, and threaten'd him with their father's displeasure for acting a part so contrary to his designs. I was highly provoked at their barbarity ; and having severely reprov'd them for it, desired Theofa to sit down and wait for Condoidi. I had the Language Master as well as my Valet de Chambre along with me ; and they were sufficient to shelter me from any kind of insult. -

At length the father came home ; but as soon as he heard that I waited for him, and that I was accompanied by a young woman, he went out again in as great a hurry as if he had been threaten'd by some mischief, and sent me word by the servant who let me in, that he was astonish'd after what had pass'd between us in the morning, that I shou'd pretend to force him to receive a daughter whom he did not own. Shock'd to the last degree at this unexpected piece of rudeness and cruelty, I took Theofa by the hand, and told her as her birth did not in the least depend on the caprice of Condoidi, it was no matter whether he own'd her or not, since it was manifest that she was his daughter. My testimony and that of the Cadi will have as much weight as an avowal of your family ; and I see nothing else in their refusing you their friendship which you have any reason to regret. I lead her out, and no body had the good manners to wait on us to the door. As I cou'd not expect much civility from young men to whom I was unknown, I was more ready to excuse their rudeness to me than their barbarity to their sister.

Poor Theofa seem'd more afflicted by this disgrace than I supposed, as she was so very unwilling

ling to go along with me, she cou'd have been. This accident seem'd to favour my designs, and I resolv'd to acquaint her with them at my Language Master's ; but the sorrowful air which she wore all the evening, made me think it an unlucky time. I satisfied myself therefore with telling her over and over again, that she ought not to be uneasy since she was sure never to want any thing. She told me what affected her most in my offers, was the assurance which I gave her of the continuance of my esteem. Tho' this compliment had an air of kindness, yet it was accompanied with a heaviness of heart, which she wou'd, I hoped, ere morning shake off.

As I was now fix'd in my resolutions, and my certainty concerning the birth of Theofa had effaced all the troublesome ideas which before were constantly recurring, and wounded my delicacy ; I pass'd this night with greater tranquility than the last. But with so many good qualities and a noble birth, of which she had so shocking a proof, shou'd I have wish'd to have made her my mistress, if her honour had been unstain'd ? Her perfections are so qualified by her blemishes, that she seems to be exactly fitted for the station in which I wou'd place her. I drop'd asleep with this thought, and must have been more pleas'd with it than I imagin'd, since I was so much alarmed with a piece of news which I heard when I awaked in the morning. My Language Master came in a great hurry, about nine o'clock, to tell me, that Theofa was just gone away in a chariot that had been brought for her by a stranger. She did not, said he, show the least reluctance to go along with him ; but I shou'd have stop'd her, had you not given me such express orders to let her follow her own inclinations in every thing. I interrupted this cutting speech by an inconsiderate

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exclamation. Ah ! why did you not oppose her, cried I ? You ought to have understood my orders better. He immediately added, that he expostulated with her, telling her that I shou'd be greatly surpris'd at so hasty a resolution, and that the least she cou'd do was to inform me of the reasons of her conduct. She replied, that she knew not to what hazards she was going to expose herself, but that I might be sure, whatever evils befel her, that she shou'd take care to acquaint me with her fate.

I know not of what nature the commotions which I felt in my heart on this occasion were, and the Reader may judge of them as he pleases. But I rose in a greater agony that I was ever sensible of before ; and complaining bitterly of my Language Master, told him in a violent passion, that my friendship or indignation depended on his efforts to discover where Theofa was gone. As he had been a witness to almost all that had pass'd since she had been at his house, he told me, if what he knew were the greatest secrets of her adventures, that the stranger who came for her, must have been sent by Condoidi or the Seliotar. I was entirely of his opinion ; and without asking myself the reasons of my great uneasiness, order'd him to go first to the Seliotar's, and then to Condoidi's. At the Seliotar's he was only to enquire at the door who had been there since nine o'clock, but was to ask Condoidi himself if he had sent for his daughter.

I waited for his return with inexpressible impatience. He was so little the better for his enquiries, and my rage was so enflamed at this increase of my incertainty, that I began to mistrust him. Cou'd I credit my suspicions, said I, with a look full of terror, I wou'd immediatly treat you in a manner that shou'd extort the truth from

from you. He was alarm'd at my threats, threw himself at my feet, and promised to confess what he had been prevail'd on, he said, to engage in with the utmost reluctance and from no motive but that of compassion. I burnt with impatience to hear him. He told me that Theofa last night, a little after I left her, sent for him into her chamber; and that after a very moving speech concerning her situation, she desired his assistance with regard to a resolution which she was absolutely determined to execute. Not being able, she said, longer to bear the eyes of those who knew her shame and misfortunes, she was resolved privately to quit Constantinople and to go to some city of Europe, where she might find an asylum in the generosity of some Christian family. She own'd that her stealing away without my knowledge was an ill requital of my favours, and a breach of the confidence which she ought to repose in her Benefactor. But as of all mankind she had the greatest obligations to and esteem for me, I was consequently the person whose presence, conversation and friendship gave her the quickest sense of the shame of her past life. At last, her entreaties rather than her arguments prevail'd on the Language Master to conduct her as soon as it was day to the Port, where there was a vessel of Messina in which she resolved to go to Sicily.

Where is she, said I, with more impatience than ever? That's what I want to know, and what you shou'd have told me before now. She is, I don't doubt, said he, either on board the ship, which is not to sail these two days, or else at the Greek Inn on the Key where I left her. Fly thither, said I, in a magisterial tone, and engage her to return instantly to your house. Be sure, added I, threatening him at the same time  
very

very severely, not to let me see your face without her; I have not told you half what you have to fear from my anger, if I don't see her before noon. He went out without making me any reply. But in this violent agony, and distracted by a thousand fears which I did not stay to reflect on, I thought that every thing which I did not do myself wou'd be too dilatory or too precarious. I call'd him back: Being persuaded as I understood the language, that I might easily go to the Port, and mix with the crowd without being known. I'll go along with you, said I: You have too basely betray'd me to deserve to be trusted again.

I design'd to dress very plainly, to walk thither, and take no body with us but my Valet de Chambre. The Language Master endeavour'd while I was dressing, by all kinds of submissions and excuses, to recover my good opinion. I did not doubt but that he had some views of interest in this affair; but giving little heed to what he said, I confined my thoughts to the step I was going to take. Notwithstanding the ardent desire which I had of detaining Theofa at Constantinople, yet if I cou'd have been assured of her intentions, and been persuaded that she really would have embraced a virtuous and recluse way of life, I shou'd, I think, rather have forwarded than opposed her design. But supposing her sincere, what probability was there that it would be possible for her to resist all the opportunities which she must necessarily have of engaging in new adventures? The Captain of the ship, and any Passengers that might embark along with her, raised my suspicions. And if she did not seem designed by her fate for a more regular course than she had formerly lived, why shou'd I suffer any body else to rob me of the pleasures which I had promised myself in her? Such were the bounds in which I thought I still  
confined

confined my sentiments. I went to the Inn where the Language Master left her, and was told that she was in her chamber with a young Gentleman whom she had seen upon the Key and sent for in. I was very curious concerning the circumstances of this visit. Theofa, whom the young man immediately knew and embraced with great tenderness, had very freely returned his caresses; and they had been shut up together without any interruption for upwards of an hour.

I thought that all my predictions were now accomplished; and was so vex'd and uneasy, that I had like to have broken off all correspondence with Theofa, and to have went home again without seeing her. But the principle of my actions continuing still to disguise itself, I resolved to do that out of curiosity, which I did not seem to desire to do from any other motive, and sent the Language Master up to tell her that I wanted to speak with her. The confusion which the bare mentioning of my name gave her, deprived her for some time of the use of her speech. The Language Master came back and told me that the Gentleman that was with her, was the youngest of Condoidi's three sons. I went to her immediately. She attempted to throw herself at my feet; but I prevented her, and found myself much calmer at seeing her brother than I cou'd have expected after such violent commotions. Whether my sentiments were such as I supposed them or not, I found myself much less inclined to reproach her, than to express my transports at finding her again.

In short, I continued for some time, as tho' my eyes were not the same they were the day before, to view her with a satisfaction, or rather an extacy of which I had never been sensible before. Her person, which 'till then I had only moderately

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moderately admired, charmed me to such a degree that I drew my chair with a sort of transport, in order to be nearer to her. My fears of losing her seem'd to encrease, and I began to wish her at the Language Master's again. The sight of several ships, among which I supposed was that of Messina, raised a tumult in my breast which gave me great uneasiness. You wou'd forsake me then, Theofa, said I with a very sorrowful aspect! and when you took this cruel resolution, disregarded the anguish which it wou'd occasion to one who is so entirely devoted to you! But why wou'd you leave me without advising me of your design? Have I so ill deserv'd your confidence? She held down her head, and wept. And turning her eyes at length upon me, replied that she had ~~nothing~~ to reproach herself with concerning her gratitude. And if the Language Master, said she, had given you a faithful account of my sentiments for you, you cou'd not suspect me of it. She went on to alledge the same reasons which he had in her justification; and coming to young Condoidi whom I might be surpris'd to find in her chamber, she confess'd that seeing him go by, the remembrance of the affection which he had express'd for her the night before, induced her to call him in; and that what he had told her, was a new reason for hastening her departure. Condoidi had informed his three sons that he had not the least doubt of her being their sister; but not being at all disposed to receive her into his family, had forbid them to enter into any correspondence with her; and seem'd, tho' he had not fully explain'd himself, to have some black design in view. The Youth being overjoy'd at meeting his sister, for whom he found his affection greatly encrease, had exhorted her to be upon her guard against his father; and finding her determined to leave Constantinople, had

had offer'd to accompany her in her voyage. What counsel, added she, wou'd you give to the wretched Theofa, and what can she chuse but flight?

I cou'd have told her that the strongest reason which she had urged to justify her flight, which was the designs of her father, did not lessen the grounds of my complaints, since she had resolved upon it before she knew that she had any thing to apprehend from him. But making every thing give way to my desire of detaining her, and being jealous even of her brother, I told her that if her departure was right and necessary, she ought at least to make the preparations for it, which it would be the greatest imprudence to neglect. And ~~accusing~~ her again of having too little reliance on my services, I press'd her to suspend her design 'till I had an opportunity of sending her in a safer manner than with a Captain who was a perfect stranger to us all. As for young Condoidi, I commended his good disposition, and offer'd to take him into my house, where she might easily suppose that he would be as well accommodated, and have as much care taken of his education as at his father's. I know not whether her timorousness was the occasion of her yielding to my solicitations without resistance; but judging by her silence that she consented to go along with me, I sent for a coach, and conducted her back myself. The Language Master whispered something in her ear, but I cou'd not distinguish what. Condoidi, who had been informed by his sister who I was, was so overjoy'd at my offer, that I had a worse opinion than ever of his father, since I saw his son glad to be deliver'd from him. The desire I had of being thoroughly informed of all the affairs of Theofa's family, was one motive of my taking him.

I fully

I fully resolved, at our return to the Language Master's, to explain to Theofa the views which I had with regard to her; but not being able decently to disengage myself from young Condoidi, who seem'd to apprehend that I shou'd forget my promise if he was but a moment out of my sight, I was forced to confine myself to doubtful expressions, which I was not surpris'd that she did not seem to understand. This language however was so different from that which I had always used to her, that one who had naturally so much acuteness as she had, cou'd not but perceive that it proceeded from another source. The only alteration that I made at the Language Master's, was to leave my Valet de Chambre there; under pretence that Theofa had yet no body to wait on her, but in reality to inform me of all her steps, 'till I cou'd find some Slave for her in whose fidelity I cou'd safely confide. I design'd to procure two, one of each-sex, and to carry them to her in the evening. Condoidi went home along with me. I made him quit his Greek habit, and dress'd him after the French manner. This change was so much to his advantage, that I have seen few young men that were so amiable in their persons. He had the same eyes and features as Theofa, and a very fine shape, the beauty of which was concealed by his former habit. He wanted however a thousand accomplishments which education would have given him, and this confirm'd me in my ill opinion of the customs and manners of the Greek Nobility. But the relation in which he stood to Theofa, was enough to make me spare no cost nor pains to cultivate his natural endowments. I order'd my Domestics to be as assiduous in waiting upon him as me, and hired divers Masters the same day to instruct him in all sorts of polite exercises and accomplishments. Neither did I longer defer

asking some account of his family. I knew the antiquity of it, but the information which I wanted was such as might be useful to Theofa.

In relating what I knew before of the antiquity of his father's nobility, he told me that he pretended to derive his descent from one Condoidi, who was General to the last Emperor of the Greeks, and who made Mahomet II. tremble a few days after the taking of Constantinople. He kept the field with a considerable force; but the situation of the Turkish Army not permitting him to approach it, he resolved, upon hearing of the miserable condition of that City, to sacrifice his life to save the Empire of the East. Having selected out of all his troops an hundred of the bravest Officers, he made a proposal to them of following him thro' ways where they cou'd have no hopes of marching an Army; and putting himself at their head in the darkeſt part of the night, came to Mahomet's Camp, whom he design'd to kill in his Tent. The Turks thought themselves so secure on that ſide, that the Guard which was there was very weak and negligent. He penetrated, if not to Mahomet's Tent, at least to thoſe which ſurrounded it and belonged to his equipage. Not ſtaying to kill enemies who were buried in ſleep, he thought of nothing but of approaching the Sultan, and his firſt ſteps were ſucceſſful. But a Turkish woman who was ſtealing from one Tent to another, being alarmed at the noiſe of their march, run back in a great hurry, and immediately communicated her fears all around her. Condoidi, whoſe conduct was equal to his valour, deſpairing of ſucceſs, and thinking his life neceſſary to his Maſter ſince he cou'd not rid him of his Enemy, preſently ſummon'd all his courage and prudence to open a paſſage for himſelf and the companions of his enterprize, and was ſo happy

as



as to escape, during the confusion of the Turks, with the loss of only two of his men. But he saved his life only to lose it more gloriously, in the terrible revolution which happen'd two days after. His children, who were all very young, became the Subjects of the Turks, and one of them settled in the Morea, where his descendants experienced a great variety of fortune. Their house was at last reduced to those who were then at Constantinople, and to a Greek Bishop of the same name, whose See was in a City of Armenia. Their Estate consisted of two villages, which produced yearly about a thousand crowns of our money, and by a privilege which is very rare in the Dominions of the Grand Seignior, and which was the only distinction of their family, always descended to the eldest.

But other hopes had drawn the father and his sons to Constantinople, and were evidently the cause of their inhumanity to Theofa. A rich Greek, their near relation, had made his Will and left them his whole estate after his death, with this single proviso, that the Church had nothing to accuse them of with regard to Religion and Liberty: two kinds of merit of which their whole nation is extremely jealous. And the Church, that is, the Bishop and his Suffragans, who were appointed the Judges of this bequest, were so much the more concerned not to be easily satisfied, as they were substituted in the room of the Legatees in the case which excluded them from the succession. As Condoidi's wife had been run away with, the Greek Prelates had not failed to alledge the uncertainty with regard to her and her daughter, as an objection against the execution of the Will. And this was the reason that Condoidi, after he had discover'd his Steward, was less solicitous to get informations concerning the adventures

tures of his wife and daughter, than to cause the Ravisher to be punished, as soon as he had confess'd himself guilty of the rape and had declared that they were dead : Hoping that the discovery of the circumstances they might have fallen into, wou'd be prevented by his death. As he was not ignorant of what the Criminal had told the Cadi, he was the more urgent to make him look'd upon as an impostor, and did not rest 'till he saw him led to execution. The Patriarch did not seem at all the more inclined, by the declaration which the Ravisher had made of their death, to surrender the estate to Condoidi, but insisted upon proofs which the other did not think himself obliged to give. The unexpected appearance of his daughter alarm'd him in a terrible manner. Far from being inclin'd to examine her pretensions, and by what accident she was at Constantinople, he apprehended nothing so much as discoveries which might prejudice his hopes. In short, being persuaded after the death of the Steward, that she would find it extremely difficult to prove her birth, he resolved, not only not to own, but even to accuse her of being an impostor, and to solicit her punishment, in case she shou'd insist upon and pretend to prove her title.

And I am mistaken, added the Youth, if he has not form'd a yet more dreadful design ; for he was, after your visit, in an agony of passion which he never feels but it produces some very extraordinary effect, and I dare not say what lengths such transports have sometimes carried him.

This account convinced me that it wou'd be difficult to persuade Condoidi to own Theofa for his daughter ; but I was not much alarm'd at his designs, and flatter'd myself, whatever methods he might take to hurt her, that I shou'd find it very easy to screen her from his attempts. This  
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thought made me drop my design of not letting him know who I was, or at least what interest I had in his daughter. I desired his son, on the contrary, to go to him the same day, to inform him that I had taken Theofa under my protection, and had received him into my house. As I designed to put my new scheme in practice immediately, I enquired after two such Slaves as I thought were necessary to it ; and went to the Language Master's in the evening.

My Valet de Chambre expected me with great impatience ; and had been strongly tempted to quit his post to come and give me an account of some observations which he thought of importance. A messenger from the Seliçtar had been there with very rich presents, and the Language Master had talked to him a long while with a very mysterious air. My Valet not understanding the Turkish language, seem'd not to take any notice of what pass'd ; and having no hopes of gathering any thing from their words, contented himself with observing them at a distance. What appeared most strange to him, was to see the Seliçtar's presents accepted of by the Language Master in a very complaisant manner. They consisted of rich silks, and a great number of jewels for the use of women. He watch'd very narrowly to see with what air Theofa wou'd receive them ; but assured me, tho' he had kept his eyes continually upon the door of her apartment and as often as possible upon her, that he had not seen them carried to her.

As I had no occasion to use any ceremony with the Language Master, and was willing that he himself should explain this affair, I immediately called him to account for his conduct. He perceived at the first word that he was discover'd ; and hoping for nothing from artifice, confess'd that

he had, with Theofa's leave, to whom he had represented his great poverty, applied the Seliſtar's preſents to his own uſe. I am very poor, ſaid he : And telling Theofa the preſents were undoubtedly hers, ſince they were ſent her without any conditions ; the acknowledgment which ſhe thought ſhe ow'd me for ſome little ſervices which I had done her, induced her to conſent that I ſhou'd keep them. It was eaſy for me to gueſs, after this confeſſion, at the motives which made him ſo ready to aſſiſt her in her flight. I immediately loſt all confidence in a man who was capable of ſo baſe an action ; and tho' I cou'd not charge him with a direct want of honeſty, yet I told him that he had nothing more to expect from my friendſhip. The power which I had over ſuch a fellow as this, hinder'd me from conſidering that my warmth was imprudent. But as I had reſolved to change Theofa's lodgings, I no longer wanted his ſervice.

I was ſo well ſatiſfied with the perſon from whom I had the two Slaves whom I brought along with me, that I had an intire confidence in them. I had informed them of my deſigns, and promiſed them their liberty as a reward of their fidelity and zeal. The woman had ſerved in ſeveral Seraglioes, and was a Greek as well as Theofa. The man was an Egyptian ; and tho' I did not regard their perſons, they had both an air above their condition. I preſented them to Theofa. She made no difficulty to accept of them ; but aſk'd of what uſe they cou'd be to her, ſince ſhe was to ſtay ſo little a while at Conſtantinople.

I was with her alone, and took this opportunity to acquaint her with my ſcheme. But tho' I had ſtudied the propoſition which I was going to make, and fancied that it wou'd be very agreeable to her ; yet I did not find the facility with which I  
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usually express'd myself. Every look which I cast upon Theofa, rais'd a flutter and tumult in my breast of which I wanted to inform her, that she might thence infer my meaning, and save me the confusion of a direct avowal of it: But as these emotions were not capable so suddenly to change a resolution in which I was fix'd; I told her with a trembling voice, that my concern for her welfare making me look upon her departure as a step which cou'd not end well, I was determin'd to make her a much more agreeable offer, which would place her in a situation where I cou'd warrant her all the retirement which she seem'd to desire, and an absolute security against any enterprizes of Condoidi. I have, continued I, at a little distance from the City, a very agreeable seat both as to its situation and the extraordinary pleasantness of its Gardens. This I offer you as the place of your retreat. You shall there be intirely at your liberty, and treated with all imaginable respect. Banish all ideas of a Seraglio, that is, those of solitude and perpetual restraint. I will be with you there as often as my affairs will permit me, and bring no body thither but some friends of my own Country, who will give you a specimen of the manners of the French. If my cares, endearments, and services, can make your life happy, you shall never know a moment's disquiet. In short, here you will find the wide difference that there is between living with an old man in a Seraglio, and with one of my age, who unites all his desires in you, and makes your happiness the study of his life.

I look'd on the ground all the time I was making this speech, as tho' I presumed too much on the power which I had over her, and was fearful of abusing it. And my thoughts being more employ'd about my passion than the scheme of life

which I had formed for her, I waited with more impatience to hear her explain herself with regard to her inclinations for me, than concerning the retirement and safety which I had mentioned in the offer I made her. Her slowness in answering began to make me very uneasy. At last, seeming to have got over a doubt which had given her a good deal of trouble, she told me, tho' she cou'd not change her opinion concerning the necessity there was of her leaving Constantinople, that it would be more agreeable to wait in the Country than the Town for the opportunity which I had promised soon to procure her of doing it in a commodious manner. And mentioning her gratitude, she added, that my favours had no bounds, and that she shou'd not attempt to compute the value of them, since in obliging an unfortunate creature who was not capable of doing any thing to serve me, I cou'd to be sure mean nothing but to gratify my generosity. As my heart was tortured with a variety of passions, it is natural to suppose that I shou'd have chosen a more direct answer; but thinking myself too happy at seeing her inclined to go along with me into the Country, I did not stay to consider whether she understood my meaning, nor whether what she had said was a consent or a refusal, but press'd her to set out with me that minute.

She made no objections, and I bid my Valet de Chambre order my chariot to the door immediately. It was hardly nine o' clock. I purpos'd to sup with her in the country, and what did I not afterwards promise myself from this happy night? But as I began to express my joy, the Language Master came in with an air of consternation, and taking me aside told me that the Seliotar, attended only by two Slaves, asked to see Theofa. The trouble which this news gave me, hinder'd me at first

first from considering that this Lord was at the door himself. Ah! did you not tell him, said I, that Theofa cou'd not receive his visit? He confess'd, with the same seeming disorder, that supposing him not to be the Seliſtar himself but one of his servants, he thought to put him off by telling him that I was with Theofa; but that the Seliſtar was only the more eager to come in, and order'd him to let me know that he was there. It was impossible for me to avoid seeing him; and if I wonder'd what love cou'd make a man of his rank stoop to, it was not so much for the sake of a reflection which was as applicable to me, as to him, as to excuse the confusion into which this unlucky accident threw me. I did not doubt but that this was a new piece of treachery of the Language Master; but scorning to vent my reproaches on so perfidious a wretch, I entreated Theofa not to give a man any advantage over her, with whose views she was so well acquainted. This anxiety was a farther indication of my own. She assured me that it was only in obedience to me, that she consented to admit of his visit.

I went to meet him. He embraced me very affectionately, and jesting pleasantly on so odd a rencounter, said, the Fair Greek had no cause to complain either of friendship or love. Repeating afterwards what he had told me before concerning his passion for her, he added that he had so firm a reliance on my word, that he shou'd be pleased at my being a witness to the proposals he wou'd make her. This way of talking and the scene to which it was a prelude, equally perplex'd me. How different a person did I now find myself from what I was in fact, when I protested that generosity was the only motive which engaged me to interest myself in Theofa's affairs! And in a disposition of which I cou'd no longer doubt, how cou'd I be



sure that I shou'd have a sufficient command of my temper patiently to hear the offers and courtship of a Rival? I was, however, under a necessity of doing myself this violence, which was the more intolerable as it was wholly owing to myself. Theofa was in some confusion at seeing us come in together; and in a much greater, when going to her, he talk'd plainly of his passion, and wearied her with all the expressions of fondness which among the Turks have the air of the studied part of a Player. I attempted several times to interrupt a Comedy which cou'd not but be as insupportable to Theofa as to me; and I went so far as to answer for her. She proposes, said I, to quit Constantinople; and this must give her great concern, since it puts it out of her power to listen to sentiments which are so full of tenderness and so agreeably express'd. But what I thought sufficient to check his career, or at least to moderate the warmth of his expressions, served only to hasten the offers for which he was prepared. He reproach'd her with a design, which she formed, he said, only to make him miserable; but flattering himself that he shou'd yet gain her affections, he told her of a stately house which he had upon the Bosphorus, and which he was resolved to settle upon her for her life, with an estate sufficient to support the grandeur of so magnificent an edifice. She shou'd live there not only free and independent, but shou'd have an absolute command of every thing which belonged to him. He wou'd give her thirty Slaves of both sexes, all his jewels, the number and lustre of which were astonishing, and every thing else which she cou'd wish for. He was in a sufficient degree of favour with the Sublime Port to be out of the reach of the jealousy of any person whatsoever. No fortune had a surer foundation than that which was founded upon  
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upon him. And that she might not doubt of his sincerity, he made me a witness of his promises.

These offers, expressed in the swelling phrases which are natural to the Turks, made a sufficient impression upon me to make me apprehend that they had made too deep an one upon Theofa. I was surprised that his proposals shou'd have so great a resemblance of mine; and as they had much more of pomp and splendor, trembled for my scheme which had hitherto went on so well, imagining that if the Seliotar fail'd, that I cou'd have no hopes of succeeding. But how greatly were my fears encreased when Theofa, being urged to answer, seem'd to be more affected by his offers than he himself expected! An air of complacency which spread itself over her face, made me see more charms in it than I had ever observed before. She always used when I saw her, to be uneasy or melancholy. The pangs of jealousy shou'd me all the fires of love lighted up in her eyes; and threw me into a transport of rage, when I heard her add that she desired only four and twenty hours to determine. She ended this scene by earnestly entreating him to retire; and recollecting afterwards that he might be offended at her not having made the same request to me, or at her scrupling to let him stay in a place where he had found me, she added very artfully, that with a Benefactor to whom she ow'd her liberty, she was less circumspect than with a Stranger whom she had hardly seen three times before.

I might perhaps have found something in the conclusion of her speech to have lessen'd or suspended my torments, had my prejudices and passions given me leave to have considered it. But being terribly alarmed at the time which she took to give her answer, made desperate by the transports

ports of the Seliſtar, and almoſt choaked by the violence which I did myſelf to conceal my tortures, I thought of nothing but getting into the ſtreet to eaſe myſelf a little by fighs and complaints. I had not however reſolution enough to leave him behind me, and when we went away together was tortured afreſh by being obliged to hear, for upwards of an hour, the extaſies and raptures with which his good fortune had inſpired him. I cou'd not believe that the ſatisfaction with which Theoſa heard him, cou'd be the effect of ſo ſhort an interview; and knowing his honour and openneſs of temper, aſk'd him the occaſion of a viſit at which I was ſo much ſurpriſed. He very readily told me, that having the ſame day ſent Theoſa ſeveral preſents which ſhe accepted of without anſwering his letter, he ſounded the Language Maſter with regard to the deſign he had of going privately to his houſe, that the hopes of reward engaged this mercenary wretch to conſent to it, and that he informed him that I was there regularly every night. But as you know the nature of my ſentiments for her, continued the Seliſtar, and I am not ignorant of yours, I was ſo far from thinking your preſence an objection to my viſit, that I was pleaſed with the thoughts of having you for a witneſs of my propoſals and promiſes. He repeated his reſolutions of faithfully performing them, and of making an experiment of a pleaſure to which Muſſelmen were ſtrangers.

I cou'd not help applauding ſo much frankneſs and ſo honourable a manner of proceeding. And reflecting on the tortures I had endured, the terms on which I was with him, and the thouſand ſcruples of honour, of which I cou'd not help being ſenſible, I reſolv'd to ſubdue my paſſions which I had ſuffer'd to have too great a ſway.  
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With this resolution I took my leave of the Seliſtar. But I had gone only a few ſteps before I heard ſome body call my Valet de Chambre, who was the only ſervant I had with me. I preſently perceived that it was Jazir, the Slave I had given to Theofa. The reflection with which I left the Seliſtar ſtill operated ſo ſtrongly, that I began to give him ſome orders which would have ſeem'd harſh to his Miſtreſs, but he prevented me by thoſe he brought from her. Theofa had ſent him after me, bidding him wait at a diſtance 'till I had parted with the Seliſtar, and then deſire me to come back to her. I had a ſtruggle in my own mind between my anger which was ſtrengthen'd by the reflections I had juſt made, and my ſorrow to ſee all my late hopes miſcarry. But I avoided the trouble of this diſcuſſion, by finding a motive to return which had nothing in common with either of theſe. I had forgot my watch which I had a great value for on account of its excellent workmanſhip. Not conſidering whether it was not properly my Valet de Chambre's buſineſs to fetch it, I went back with the Slave, highly delighted with a pretence which hid my weakneſs even from myſelf. What will the faithleſs ungrateful Theofa ſay to me? How attempt to excuſe her levity? Theſe were my complaints as I went along; and far from conſidering that ſhe had never granted me any thing which might authoriſe ſuch expreſſions, I only grew the warmer the nearer I came to the Language Maſter's. I ſhou'd certainly have accoſted her with the bittereſt reproaches, if I had ſeen in her the leaſt ſigns of fear or conſuſion. But my ſurpriſe exceeded all bounds, when I ſaw her well pleaſed, merry, and as it were ready to bleſs her ſtars for her good fortune. She did not ſuffer my doubts to laſt long. You  
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must own, said she, that I had no other way to get rid of the Seliſtar's importunities ; but if your chariot is ready, we will leave the city immediately. And I ſhou'd be ſorry, added ſhe, to have the Language Maſter let into the ſecret, for I plainly ſee that he betrays us. As I was now more confounded with joy than I was with grief before, ſhe had an opportunity to tell me, that when ſhe informed him of her deſign to quit Conſtantinople, ſhe had the ſatisfaction to find him very ready to aſſiſt her ; but perceived that intereſt was the only motive of his zeal. He aſked her leave to keep the Seliſtar's preſents, telling her that ſhe had no occaſion to trouble herſelf about any thing which might be ſaid of her after ſhe was gone. What he whiſper'd in her ear upon the key, was to deſire her to conceal this affair from me. And tho' he ſeem'd, by the care he had taken to get her conſent, not to be capable of a downright theft, yet ſhe did not doubt but that he had ſome hand in the Seliſtar's viſit and propoſals. And that ſhe had, in ſhort, all the reaſon in the world to accept of the offer I had made her of my country houſe ; and that if I was ſo kind as to gratify her deſire, I ſhou'd not put off our journey 'till the next day.

I was ſo raviſh'd with hearing her and ſo determined not to delay a moment what I deſired ſo much more than ſhe, that I did not ſtay to answer her, but order'd my chariot to be brought back immediately. It had been there while I was with the Seliſtar, and I had commanded my Valet de Chambre to ſend it home again. I was under no difficulty about concealing Theoſa's retreat from the Language Maſter ; but all my raptures not being able to put the Seliſtar out of my head, I had ſome uneaſineſs about the man-

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ner in which he might take this affair. But my scruples presently vanished, and I thought myself safe from his reproaches. The declaration which I made him of my sentiments was sincere, I never promised him that they would not alter; and having given him an opportunity to gain Theofa by his offers, he cou'd have no grounds to complain of me, tho' she shou'd prefer mine to his. But she had flatter'd him with hopes, and the time she took to determine was a sort of promise to see him again, and plainly to tell him her mind. I feared I shou'd perplex her a little by putting her in mind of this difficulty; but she had foreseen it. Going into her chamber after I had given orders about my chariot, I found her with a pen in her hand. I am writing, said she, to the Seliſtar, to put an end to any hopes he may have from my answer. I will leave my Letter with the Language Master, who will without doubt be pleased to do him a new piece of service. I told her I approved of her design, and she went on with her Letter. I did myself the violence to restrain all expressions of my joy, as tho' the fear of being cross'd by some new accident had made me suspend its transports. The Language Master, whom I look'd upon with indignation, and whose remorse perhaps made him endeavour to be reconciled to me, sent to desire my leave to come in. By all means, replied Theofa; and seeing him appear, she told him that she was resolved to quit Constantinople, that she had given me such reasons for it as forced me to approve of her resolution, and that she shou'd be glad to inform the Seliſtar of the grateful sense which she retain'd of his favours. She gave him the Letter she had written; and said with a malicious smile, you will very readily execute my commission, since you are

are paid for it beforehand, and since the Seliſtar no more than I deſigns to call you to account for his preſents. I cou'd not upon this occaſion help reproaching him with his treachery. He proteſted, to juſtify himſelf, that he was not conſcious of any breach of truſt ; and reminding me of the frankneſs with which he had confeſſed the part he acted with regard to Theoſa's flight as ſoon as he found how much it affected me, he deſired me from thence to judge of the ſincerity of his intentions. But knowing full well what was to be attributed to his fears of my vengeance, and reſolving to employ him no more, I only deſired him to tell the Seliſtar that I wou'd wait upon him very ſoon.

I was indeed already thinking of ſome methods by which I ſuppoſed I might infallibly preſerve the friendship of this Lord, notwithstanding the oppoſition of our intereſts. But hearing my chariot at the door, I took Theoſa by the hand to lead her to it, graſping it with a tranſport of joy which I cou'd no longer diſſemble. And tho' I deſigned at firſt to ſend her alone under the care of my Valet de Chambre, that the Language Maſter might not gueſs which way ſhe went ; yet I cou'd not deny myſelf the pleaſure of going along with her, maſter of her fortune and her perſon by her conſenting to retreat to my houſe, and of her heart too as I flatter'd myſelf. For what other conſtruction cou'd I put upon her throwing herſelf into my arms with ſo much confidence ?

I had no ſooner taken my place by her ſide but I ſnatch'd a raviſhing kiſs, of which I had the pleaſure to think her not inſenſible ; and a ſigh, which ſhe cou'd not ſuppreſs, made me judge yet more favourably of what paſſed in her heart. All the way we went I preſs'd her hand in mine,  
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with which I flatter'd myself she was as well pleased as I. Every action had a tincture of fondness in it, and all my words continually glow'd with the flame which raged in my heart with greater violence than ever ; but they were both, thro' my natural love of decency, equally guarded and modest.

If Theofa sometimes endeavour'd to check my ardour, she did not do it from coldness or aversion. She only entreated me not to misapply such soft and endearing language to one who was used to the tyrannical customs of a Seraglio ; and when this manner of endeavouring to avoid only redoubled my caresses, she added, that it was not strange that the French Ladies were happy, if all the men condescended to treat them with such excessive complaisance.

It was about midnight when we arrived at my Country House, which was situated near a village called Oru. I had made no extraordinary preparations ; but as I often carried my friends thither at times when I was least expected, there was always something ready to entertain them elegantly. I mention'd supper as soon as we got there, but Theofa told me she had more need of rest. I insisted however upon the necessity of refreshing ourselves a little by a slight and delicate collation. We did not sit long at table, and I spent more time in jesting and looking at Theofa, than in eating. I had told my Domestics in which room I intended to lie, and one of the reasons of my pressing Theofa to take a little refreshment was to give them time to deck it out in the most elegant manner. Having repeated what she had said of her wanting rest, I construed this declaration as a modest hint of the impatience of her desires ; and thought myself happy in finding in so amiable a mistress vivacity enough to wish for the  
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the happy hour, and modesty enough to disguise her inclinations.

My servants, who had known me more than once make this use of my house at Oru, and were order'd besides to prepare only one bed, had disposed in the same apartment every thing which was commodious for Theofa and me. I led her to it with an excess of joy and gallantry. Her Slave and my Valet de Chambre, who attended us thither; began to do their office; and jesting with Bema (that was the name of her Slave) I desired her not to incur my displeasure by being too tedious. I imagined that Theofa had naturally entered into all my views, and thought her so well disposed to the conclusion of this scene, that I had not so much as thought of throwing any veil over my designs. With a woman who had given me so plain an account of her adventures at Patras and in the Seraglio, I was not, I thought any ways obliged to use the precautions and disguises which relieve the modesty of an unexperienced girl; and if I may be indulged another reflection, I cou'd not expect any excess of modesty and reserve in one whose acknowledgments I had so just a title to, and who had besides deliver'd herself so voluntarily into my hands. And indeed the strongest passion which I hitherto had for her, seemed to myself to be only that of a Libertine; and I prefer'd her, I thought, to all other women only because she hit my fancy better, and seem'd to promise me more pleasure.

As soon as she observed that my Valet de Chambre began to undress me, she push'd away her Slave who was doing her the same office, and remain'd for some time pensive and dubious. I saw her countenance change; but being at the other end of the room, fancied I was deceived by the darkness



darkness of the night. But observing her stand still, and Bema idle by her, I ventured, tho' with some confusion, to jest a little upon the apprehension I was under that she would make me wait. This way of talking, which circumstances made very plain, quite confounded her. She went from the glass before which she stood, and throwing herself, in a languishing posture upon a sofa, lean'd her head upon her hand, as tho' she designed to hide her face from me. I apprehended at first that she was seized with some sudden disorder. We had travel'd in the night, and our collation consisted only of fruits and ice. I run to her with the greatest eagerness, and ask'd what was the matter with her. She made me no answer. My uneasiness encreasing, I took hold of the hand on which she rested her head, and offered to pull it to me, but she drew it back. At last, wiping away some tears of which I perceived the traces, she desired me to send away the Servants, and hear her for a few minutes.

As soon as we were alone, she fix'd her eyes upon the floor, and told me, with a feeble voice and an air of consternation, that she cou'd not dispute any thing I required of her, but that she never expected this. She said no more, as if grief and fear had stop'd her there; and I perceived by her manner of breathing that her heart felt the most violent emotions. My surprise, and perhaps a sense of shame which I cou'd not presently overcome, render'd me speechless; and it wou'd have been the oddest sight in the world to have seen us both as much dejected and amazed as tho' we had been suddenly struck with some mortal disease.

At length, recovering myself a little, I offer'd again to take hold of her hand, and pressing it in mine,

mine, a moment, said I during this tender struggle, suffer me to hold it a moment while I talk to and hear you. She seem'd to comply rather thro' a fear of offending than a desire of pleasing me. Alas! said she, with the same sadness of heart, what right have I to refuse you? Is there any thing in my power which is not more properly yours than mine? No, no, I cou'd never have expected this. Her tears began to flow in greater abundance. During the confusion of this scene, I had some suspicion of her sincerity, and began to think her grief and opposition affected, having often heard that most of the Turkish girls boast of not granting their favours 'till after a long resistance. But the simplicity which I observed in her sorrows, and the shame of not answering the opinion which she had of me if she was sincere, made me suppress my passions. Seeing her continue to hold down her head, don't be afraid said I, to look upon me, but be assured that of all mankind I am the least capable of giving you uneasiness, or of offering any violence to your inclinations. My desires are the natural effect of your charms, and I flatter'd myself that you wou'd not refuse me what you voluntarily granted to the Son of the Governor of Patras and Bassa Cheriber. Our passions are not in our own power.----She interrupted me by an exclamation, which proceeded I thought from a heart full of anguish; and when I talk'd in a manner which I judg'd proper to pacify her, she told me that I had fill'd up the measure of her grief. Not being able to guess at the cause of so odd a behaviour, and not daring to say a single word more for fear of making matters worse, I entreated her to tell me what I must do, what I must say to appease the storm I had rais'd, and not to think me guilty of a crime since she must know

know I did not mean to offend her. The manner in which I pronounced this request, made her apprehend that she had in her turn displeased me by her complaints. O! best of men, said she, (an expression which is very common among the Turks) judge more favourably of the sentiments of your unhappy Slave, and that it is impossible for you to do any thing with regard to me which shall be call'd an offence. But you have cleft my heart with grief. What I desire, adds she, since you permit me to explain my desires, is to be left to my own sad thoughts to night, and to give me leave to communicate them to you in the morning; but if there is too much presumption in this request of your Slave, wait at least 'till you have heard before you condemn them. She attempted to throw herself at my feet, but I would not suffer her to do it; and rising from the sofa where I sat to hear her, I assumed as free and unconcerned an air as tho' I had never thought of making any proposition of love. Lay aside terms, said I, which no longer suit your condition. You are so far from being a Slave, that you have an absolute power over me, which I was but too willing to grant you. But I would scorn to owe your heart to authority, even tho' I had a right to make use of it. You shall pass this night, and the rest of your life, if you please, with all the tranquillity you seem to desire. I immediately call'd her Slave, and bid her, without the least passion, do her duty; and retiring with the same apparent calmness, went into another apartment, and got instantly into bed. I had some remains of perturbation which, notwithstanding all my efforts, I cou'd not shake off; but I flatter'd myself that rest and sleep would soon restore the serenity of my heart and mind.

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As soon as the darkness and silence of the night had begun to recollect my scatter'd senses, all the circumstances which had so lately passed before my eyes, presented themselves in colours almost as lively to my imagination. As I had not lost one word of what Theofa had said, the first sentiments which I felt in making a review of it, were without doubt indignation and confusion. I cou'd also easily perceive that the readiness with which I consented to leave her to herself, and all the unconcernedness which I shou'd at quitting the room, were owing to the same cause ; and I confirmed this opinion by reproaching myself for my weakness and folly. Ought I not to blush at feeling an inclination for a girl of this sort, and shou'd I suffer a liking of her to proceed so far as to give me uneasiness and trouble ? Is not Turkey full of Slaves from whom I may expect the same pleasures ? I have then, added I in ridicule of my own folly, been very near falling seriously in love with a girl whom I took out of a Seraglio at Constantinople, and who was not perhaps admitted into that of Cheriber 'till after she had tried all the rest. Coming afterwards to the refusal which she had made me of her favours after having been so prodigal of them to I know not how many Turks, I was amazed at my excessive delicacy which could set so high a price on the leavings of old Cheriber. But I thought it yet more admirable that Theofa shou'd so soon have learnt the value of her charms, and that the first man to whom she should proffer to sell them at so dear a rate, shou'd be a Frenchman, and one too who had so much experience in the traffic of women. She hoped, said I, from the good-natured air which appears in my face and manners, to make me her first cull ; and this young Coquet, who had I thought so much simplicity and frankness,

supposes



supposes perhaps that she had artifice enough to lead me where-ever she pleases.

After I had as it were satisfied my resentment by these reflections, I came by degrees to consider this matter thoroughly and with less passion. I review'd Theofa's whole conduct with regard to me, since I first saw her in Cheriber's Seraglio. Has she ever by any word or action discover'd her intentions to be such as I supposed they were? Have I not, on the contrary, been often surpris'd to see her catch and improve into maxims of the most refined morality the least hints which I gave her of reflection; and have I not been even astonish'd at the acuteness and energy of all her reasonings? She was indeed sometimes too full of them, and it was this kind of affectation perhaps which hinder'd me from thinking them sincere. I look'd upon them at most only as an exercise of her understanding, or as the effect of an infinite number of new impressions, which the account and explication of our maxims and customs were continually making on a lively and active imagination. But why shou'd I do her this injury, and not really believe, as she has naturally a good disposition and a great strength of genius, that she was seriously affected with a thousand principles the seeds of which she found in her own heart? Did she not at once reject the offers of the Solicitor? Did not she design to leave even me, to seek a place in Europe that might answer her views? And if she afterwards consented to deliver herself up to my care, was it not natural for her to have such a confidence in one to whom she ow'd the ideas of virtue with which she was so much ravish'd? And wou'd she not, in this case, merit esteem and veneration; and from whom more than from me, who served her at first without any views of interest; and who, instead of thwart-

thwarting her schemes of wisdom by the empty foolish ones of a Libertine, ought to be proud of a conversion which is properly a work of my own?

The more intent I was upon these reflections, the more I found I was charmed with this view of my adventure with Theofa; and having always valued myself upon some elevation in my principles, it cost me but little uneasiness to sacrifice my plan of pleasure to the hopes of making her as remarkable for her virtue as her beauty. I never thought, said I, of teaching her knowledge and virtue; and her love of them is more owing to her own happy disposition than to any hints which have accidentally drop'd from me. What might I not expect, did I seriously study to cultivate her rich endowments of Nature? I was ravish'd with the prospect of what I thought I cou'd make her. What will she then want, added I, to be the first woman in the world? What! Theofa become as amiable by the qualities of her heart and mind, as by the external allurements of her person! Ah! what man of taste and honour would not think himself happy in such a—— I suppress'd the rest of this reflection, alarm'd at the greediness with which my heart assented to it. It was ever recurring to my mind 'till the moment I drop'd asleep! I was far from feeling the uneasiness I apprehended; and slept perfectly calm and easy all the rest of the night.

The first traces which I found in my memory in the morning, were those enchanting ones which were impress'd upon it when I drop'd asleep; and they had taken such deep root, that having, as it were, effac'd those of my first scheme, I had not the least return of any desires which resembled those which I had entertain'd for some days past. I burnt with impatience to see Theofa; but it was  
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in the hopes of seeing her such as I had found so much pleasure in supposing she would soon be, or of seeing her at least in a disposition towards it. This desire was violent enough to make me even apprehensive of being deceived in my expectations. The moment I heard some body up in her apartment, I sent to desire admittance. She bid her Slave desire me to allow her time to get out of bed, but I made the more haste to surprise her in it; tho' with no other view than that of convincing her, by my moderation, of the change which the night had produced. She was in some confusion at seeing me come so soon, and laid the blame of my catching her in bed on the dilatoriness of her Slave. I encouraged her by the modesty of my words and behaviour, and left her no room to fear any thing from me. And yet how alluring, what a temptation to make me forget my resolutions, the view of so many charms!

You promised me, said I, very seriously, some explications which I long to hear; but suffer them to be preceded by mine. To whatever desires I gave myself up yesterday, you must know by the regard which I paid to yours, that I wou'd not obtain any thing of a woman which she is not inclined voluntarily to grant me. I shall now add to this proof of my sentiments a declaration which will confirm them: And it is this, that with whatever views you consented to accompany me hither, you shall always have full liberty to pursue as you now have to explain them. Here I stop'd; and resolved not to interrupt her 'till she had finished her speech. But I was surprised to see her cast her eyes upon me and shed some tears; and when the uneasiness they gave me made me forget my resolution, to ask her the occasion of

them, my wonder was increased by her answer. She told me that no body's case was more lamentable than hers, and that what I said was the very evil which she apprehended. I desired her to speak more plainly. Alas! said she, in making me this declaration of your sentiments, what an injury you do mine! After what past here last night, you cou'd not talk in this manner but by a chain of the same ideas; and I die with shame to find that I have succeeded so ill, notwithstanding all my efforts, in my endeavours to lay my whole soul before you.

This complaint serving only to darken the matter still more, I told her, with an equal frankness in my words and manner, that every thing which related to her ever since I first saw her, had been to me one continued riddle, which what she had just said render'd still more impenetrable. Speak plainly, said I; why shou'd you hesitate? To whom shou'd you unbosom yourself with greater confidence?

It is your questions, answer'd she at last, it is the necessity you lay me under of speaking plainly which causes my uneasiness. What! can you want to be told that I am the most wretched of my sex? You, who have shewn me my shame, can you be surpris'd that I am insupportable to myself, and seek to hide me from the eyes of others. Ah! what is the part which I ought to act for the future? Ought I to comply with your desires or those of the Seliectar, when all the truths you have taught me, condemn them? Or shou'd I go in quest of a country of which you have so much extoll'd the customs and manners, and there find, in the practice of all the virtues which I have been a stranger to, a perpetual reproach of my infamy? I made an attempt however to  
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quit this land of corruption ; being equally desirous to fly from those who ruin'd the innocence of my youth, and from you who taught me to be sensible of my loss. But whither wou'd my remorse and confusion have lead me ! I perceive but too plainly that I shou'd, without a guide or protection, have plunged at every step I took into new disasters. Your intreaties stop'd me : Tho' you was more formidable to me than all others, because you knew the whole extent of my shame and wretchedness ; tho' every look seem'd a sentence to condemn me, yet I consented to return with you. Does the patient, said I, to encourage myself to it, blush at the sight of his wounds ? Besides, being convinced of the imprudence of my intended voyage, I flatter'd myself that you wou'd soon secure me a safer method of departing. And yet it is you who drive me towards the precipice from which you deliver'd me. You whom I look'd upon as my Master in virtue, endeavour to entice me back to vice ; and this is the more dangerous to my weakness, because if it cou'd have any charm for me, it would be when presented by you. Alas ! Did I ill make known my meaning, or did you only pretend not to apprehend me ? The narrow limits of my understanding, the confusion of my ideas and expressions, did perhaps make you misconstrue my sentiments ; but if by my present efforts to explain you begin to comprehend them, be not offended with the effect your own lectures have had upon my heart. Tho' you shou'd have changed your principles ; yet as I plainly perceive that it is my duty to persevere in them, I earnestly conjure you to permit me to do it.

This speech, of which I only relate what I remember most distinctly, was long enough to give me time to comprehend all its force and to prepare my answer to it. As I was full of the reflections which employed me all night, I was so far from being offended at Theofa's reproaches, sentiments and resolutions, that I was, on the contrary, quite charm'd at finding them so conformable to the opinion which I had of them. And indeed the idea which I began to conceive of her, and the virtuous satisfaction which I felt from it, gather'd strength all the time she was speaking; and had she been ever so little attentive to my behaviour, she would have observed that I heard every word she utter'd with signs of joy and applause. My answer, however, was calm and moderate, that I might not seem to conclude so serious a conference with an air of levity or passion. Dear Theofa, said I, in the fulness of my heart, you have humbled me by your complaints, which, I own, I was yesterday far from foreseeing; but I had some presage of them when I made you this visit, and came prepared to plead guilty. If you ask me the occasion of my crime, it was the difficulty I found to persuade myself of the truth of what I hear with so much admiration, and what wou'd still have seem'd incredible, had I not so incontestable a proof of it. That my esteem of you was not equal 'till now to my admiration, is my shame and reproach. Alas! when one considers how rare the love of virtue and how hard the practice of it is even in countries the most favour'd by Heaven, is it easy to believe that one of your age, just come out of a Seraglio, and in the heart of Turkey, cou'd so suddenly form so perfect an idea and have so quick a relish of it? What did I do, what did I say to inspire you with it? Cou'd  
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some casual reflections on our customs and manners give such a happy turn to your heart? No, no, you are indebted for it to no body but yourself; and the wrong bias you received from the force of custom, is a misfortune of your birth and education, for which you are not at all accountable.

The inference which I would draw from all this, continued I with the same moderation, is that you would be as unjust in being offended with my views, since it was not easy for me so suddenly to comprehend yours, as in believing it possible for me on account of what is past to refuse you the esteem which you will merit by a conduct worthy of your sentiments. Lay aside all thoughts of your intended voyage: As you are so young and have so little experience of the world, the event of it can't be happy. The Europeans who have such just notions of virtue, don't practice it better than the Turks: Passions and vice are the growth of every clime. But if you have any confidence in my promises, you will find yourself safe and happy with me, whose sentiments have already changed their nature, and who will study nothing more ardently than to perfect yours. My house shall be your asylum, my example teach all my servants to respect you, and my friendship be always ready to assist you; and if you have received any light from my counsels, they may not perhaps be altogether useless for the future.

She view'd me with so pensive an air that I in vain endeavour'd to read in her looks whether she was satisfied with my answer. I even apprehended by her silence, that she still doubted of my sincerity, and did not dare, after the proof I had given of my weakness, to rely upon my promises. But all her uneasiness was on her own



account. Can I think it possible, replied she after a long silence, for you who have such just notions of virtue and know my errors and infamy, to look without contempt upon me? I have confess'd and do not repent my confessing them to you. 'Twas but what I ow'd to the desire you express'd of hearing the history of my misfortunes. But am I not therefore obliged to avoid you? Can I be too far from those who have it in their power to reproach me? I was no longer master of my temper. I interrupted her, and all my affected moderation forsook me. And my complaints must be very moving, and my arguments very persuasive, since I forced Theosa to confess that the more I understood the worth of virtue, the more I must necessarily admire such sentiments as hers. I made her comprehend that contempt, according to the rules of right reason, is due only to voluntary faults, and that what she call'd her infamy and errors did not deserve those terms; since that wou'd be supposing her to know before her conference with me in the Seraglio what she did not know till afterwards. Promising at length to have an everlasting esteem for her, and to use my utmost endeavours to finish the work which I had so happily begun, I oblig'd myself by a solemn vow to leave her full liberty not only to fly but even to hate and despise me, if I ever infringed any articles which she shou'd think proper to impose upon me. And to take away all appearance of equivocation, I immediately made her a plan, every particular of which I submitted entirely to her. This house, said I, shall be the place of your abode, and you shall order all the affairs of it just as you please. I will never see you without your leave, you shall have no visitors but such as you think proper to receive, and nothing



thing profitable or amusing shall be wanting. And as you discover so great an inclination for every thing which may rectify the understanding or purify the heart, I design that you shall learn our language, which will immediately make you familiar with an infinite number of excellent authors. You shall subtract from my propositions or add to them whatever you please, and shall be sure to have all your desire punctually performed.

Neither I nor Theofa at all attended to the cause of the warmth which animated all my proposals. My frankness appeared to her a sufficient reason for complying with them. She told me that she ow'd every thing to my generosity, was apprehensive of her unworthiness, but shou'd think herself exceedingly happy in accepting of my offers, provided I was faithful in the performance of them. I know not what enabled me to subdue my inclination to throw myself on my knees at her bed-side, and thank her for her consent as a favour. We will begin immediately, said I, with more rapture than I would willingly have discover'd, and you shall one day find that I merit your confidence.

I was very sincere in this. I left her without so much as venturing to kiss her hand, tho' as she has the handsomest in the world, my desires during this conversation prompted me a thousand times to do it. My design was to return immediately to Constantinople, as well to procure her every thing which I thought proper to amuse her in her retirement, as to allow her time to settle her authority and put the house in what order she pleased. I declared my intentions to the few Servants whom I left there to attend her. Bema, whom I sent for to hear this order, desired leave

to speak with me in private, and greatly surpris'd me by what she said. She told me that the liberty and power which I gave her Mistress, made her plainly see that I was not acquainted with the character of her Country-women; that the experience which she had gain'd by living in several Seraglioes enabled her to assist a Stranger with her counsels; that the fidelity to which she was oblig'd by her condition, wou'd not suffer her to conceal what I had to apprehend from so young and beautiful a Mistress as Theofa; that I ought in short to have little dependance on her virtue, if instead of leaving her an absolute authority, I did not commit her to the care of some faithful Slave; that this was the custom of all the Turkish Lords in general; and if I thought her proper for this trust, that she would be so vigilant and zealous that I shou'd never have any cause to repent of my confidence.

Tho' I had never observed that Bema had capacity enough to make me hope any great matters from her, and had so good an opinion of Theofa that I did not think it necessary to set an Argus over her; yet I took a medium between the advice I had received, and the method which I had resolv'd on. I don't act, said I to Bema, upon the maxims of your Country, and besides I have no power which wou'd authorise me to prescribe laws to Theofa. But if you are capable of acting with any discretion, I wou'd willingly commit to you the care of having a watchful eye over her conduct. Your reward shall be proportion'd to your services, or rather to your prudence; for I absolutely insist, added I, upon your never letting Theofa perceive that I have given you any such commission. Bema seem'd to be so highly satisfi'd with my answer, that I shou'd have suspected her,

her, had not the persons of whom I had her, given me as good a character of her discretion as of her fidelity. And then the execution of such a command required but a moderate share of either.

What I was the most thoughtful about as I returned to the City, was the difficulty of satisfying the Seliſtar, who wou'd ſoon know that Theofa had quitted the Language Maſter's, and that I had granted her a retreat at my houſe. I was preſently eaſy with regard to her, ſince ſhe was very ſecure there ; and without examining what I promiſed myſelf for that, concluded that I need not, whatever were the ſentiments of my heart, give myſelf any pain about them for the future. But not being able to avoid coming to an explanation with the Seliſtar, the reaſons which I thought over night capable of ſatisfying him, loſt their weight even with me as the time of my endeavouring to make him approve them drew near. That on which I had the greateſt dependance, was the fear of her father, who wou'd have a better pretence than ever, not only to exclude her from his family but alſo to ſollicit her puniſhment, if ſhe ſhou'd voluntarily engage in an amour with a Turk. She was ſafer in her circumſtances, under my protection than that of the Seliſtar. I cou'd not however own that ſhe was at my houſe, without laying myſelf under a neceſſity of ſeeing him there as often as he pleaſed : And this wou'd be as great a torment to Theofa as to me. In this perplexity I purſu'd a quite different and perhaps the only method which cou'd have ſucceeded with ſo generous a man as the Seliſtar : I went directly to his houſe ; and preventing all his queſtions, and not giving him time to make my avoid-

ing a breach with him more difficult by his complaints, I told him that the motive which made the young Greek reject his offers, was her avow'd design and zeal to live in the practice of virtues which are little known among women in Turkey. I informed him how greatly I was surpris'd at her resolution, and that I cou'd not think it sincere till I had a sufficient proof of it ; that I admired such noble sentiments in one of her age, and was resolv'd to afford her all the assistance I cou'd to mature and bring them to perfection ; and that I knew him too well to doubt of his inclination to promote my design. I guarded this speech with all the art and precaution which I was master of, and was sorry only for the last part of it. The Seliſtar answer'd my expectations by protesting that he revered such sentiments as I represented Theofa's to be, and that he never design'd to exclude them from the commerce in which he propos'd to engage her ; but taking occasion from what I had said of my good opinion of him, he assured me that his passion increased with his esteem, and that he would give her more sensible proofs than ever of the great regard which he had for her. Not being able to get clear of the proposition which he made of going along with me now and then to Oru, I offer'd him the same liberty as the rest of my friends ; but under the same restriction of not obliging Theofa to admit of any visits but such as she pleas'd, since this was one of her privileges which I had sworn to keep inviolable.

Tho' I might justly have reproach'd myself with a discovery of which I saw the Seliſtar was resolv'd to make an advantage, yet I was so well pleas'd with having thus fairly got rid of my scruples with regard to him, that I  
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look'd upon the pain of seeing him at Oru as nothing. He wou'd have had grounds of complaint if I had hesitated about granting him that satisfaction ; and suspicions, against which his own integrity and the opinion which he had of mine had hitherto been a sufficient defence, might have risen in his mind, and soon have proved the bane of our friendship. I thought of nothing when I left him but of performing the promises which I had made Theofa. As I knew her taste for Painting, which had hitherto been confined to the representations of flowers only, according to a law which forbids the Turks that of all Animals, I look'd out for a Master who was able to teach her Design and Portrait. In my choice of Master, for other European Arts and Exercises, a thought came into my head which I opposed for a long while, but which at last got the better of all my objections. As I was persuaded that young Condoidi was her brother, it seem'd natural to associate them in their education ; especially as most of the Masters I had provided for one, wou'd be wanted by the other. This design supposed Condoidi's living at Oru ; but far from thinking this an objection, I was on the contrary pleased with being able to give Theofa a constant companion, who might banish every thing which is distasteful in solitude. But to be ingenuous, my ideas were not very clear with regard to the chief difficulty which I had to encounter, and this was perhaps the obligation I thought myself under to keep him at a distance from her. Had I sifted this thoroughly, I might have started others which I might have thought more reasonable and have submitted to. My thoughts were very confused, and I did not dare to own even to myself, that

that the presence of this youth would often deprive me of the liberty of being alone with Theofa; but being resolved religiously to perform all my promises, I soon got over this difficulty.

Synefius (that was young Condoidi's name) was greatly rejoiced to hear what my esteem and inclination prompted me to do for his sister, and did not seem less pleas'd with my design of letting them live together, and of having them instructed by the same Masters. I sent him the same day to Oru, with every thing which I designed for Theofa's amusement. Old Condoidi who knew that I had taken his son and had been, while I was absent, to thank me for it, came again as soon as Synefius sent him word of my arrival. I was fully convinced by his behaviour that Synefius had, according to my orders, faithfully concealed the motive of my conduct. I took this opportunity to renew my suit in favour of Theofa, but presently found that it was to no purpose. The obstinate old Gentleman immediately told me, that his religion and honour would not permit him to own a daughter who had been brought up in a Seraglio. The offer which I made to obviate all his difficulties, by engaging myself to perform all the offices of a father with regard to her, did not seem to stagger him in the least. He was so inflexible and provoked me so much, that I plainly told him that I should very willingly spare him the trouble of visiting me for the future, and that I never desired to see him at my house again.

I did not return to Oru 'till the next day. My impatience to see Theofa was very great; and I thought, as I had absolutely renounced all my designs

signs upon her, that I might very consistently with her notions of virtue and all my promises, indulge myself in the innocent satisfaction of her company. This kind of liberty which I allow'd myself, hinder'd me from knowing what a refusal of it wou'd have cost me. I found Synesius with her, both of them eager at their exercises, and almost equally sensible of my favour in permitting them to live together. I admired in Theofa an air of tranquillity which seem'd to arise from the satisfaction of her heart, and to have quicken'd the natural life of her complexion. I desired to know of Bema what use her Mistress had made of the authority I had given her. This Slave, who was piqued at having so little herself, did not dare to accuse Theofa of having abused hers. She repeated however all the reasons which she had before urged to make me apprehend that she wou'd do it. The cause of her zeal was so visible, that I intreated her with a smile not to make herself quite so uneasy. She expected, from what the persons who bought her for me said, that I shou'd have given her a sort of dominion over Theofa; and this mark of confidence with which she had been honour'd in a Seraglio, is the highest distinction for a Slave. I told her that the Turkish customs were not a rule for a Frenchman, and desired her for the sake of her own quiet to be a little more pliable with regard to ours. She did not venture to complain, but was from that minute an enemy of Theofa and me, and easily found an opportunity to make us feel the effects of her displeasure.

The business of my Employment allowing me more leisure than I had for some time past, I made the pleasantness of the Season a pretence for spending some weeks in the Country. I was at first apprehensive lest Theofa shou'd be too rigorous with regard to my promise of never seeing her without her leave. But thinking I observed that she was on the contrary pleased with my company, I forgot and devoted myself for several days entirely to her, and had by this means a nearer view of all the perfections with which Nature had adorned her character. She received from me the first lessons of our Language, and soon made a surprising progress in it. I had told her what advantages she would receive from reading, and she was very impatient to be able to understand a French Author. I was not less so than she, and satisfied her curiosity in some measure beforehand, by giving her an imperfect sketch of what she might expect to find in a better method and more at large in our best Writers. I did not drop a word concerning the sentiments of my heart, but was as it were intoxicated with the innocent pleasure of hearing and seeing her. I shou'd have been fearful of lessening the confidence which she reposed in me by any return of my weakness; and what appeared strange even to me, I found myself so little disquieted by that warmth of constitution which makes the privation of certain pleasures troublesome enough to persons of my age, that I renounced them without pain, and even without thinking of them, tho' I had never 'till then imposed very strict laws upon myself with regard to women, especially in a Country where the calls of Nature seem to increase with the liberty of satisfying them.

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The Seliſtar came ſometimes and interrupted the pleaſures of ſo delightful a life. I had prepared my Ward for his viſits; and being willing to accuſtom her to look upon the company of men with other eyes than the Turkiſh women, who think they can have no correſpondence with them without love, I deſired her to receive with politeneſs a man whoſe eſteem was an honour, and whoſe love cou'd give her no grounds of diſquiet. He answer'd the good opinion which I had of him by ſo modeſt a behaviour, that I wonder'd at tho' I did not well underſtand the nature of his ſentiments; for the only means by which he cou'd have any hopes of gratifying them, being cut off by his own agreement as well as Theoſa's refusal, he cou'd promiſe himſelf nothing for the future, and enjoy'd at preſent only the pleaſure of a grave converſation, and even this was ſhorter than he deſired. Theoſa, who had the complaiſance to entertain him as often as he came to Oru, had not always enough to tire herſelf with him. When he tarried too long, ſhe quitted us to reſume her exerciſes with her brother; and the Seliſtar in her abſence perſecuted me with tedious details of his paſſion. As he had no ſettled ſcheme but confined himſelf to vague expreſſions of his admiration and deſires, I was at laſt perſuaded that he had ſome reliſh and was reſolved to make an experiment of the refined ſpecies of love he had often heard me mention, which is ſeated in the heart and is ſo little known in Turkey. And yet how was it poſſible to conceive that he ſhou'd limit himſelf to the pleaſure of exerciſing his heart by tender ſentiments, without diſcovering more regret and impatience at not being able to obtain the leaſt return?

I received his visits with the less uneasiness, because the comparison which I made between his fate and my own always flatter'd the disposition which I secretly cherish'd in my heart. But I was very much ruffled after another discovery which I did not owe to myself, and which hasten'd that of several others which greatly imbitter'd the rest of my life. I had been about six weeks at Oru, and having constantly observed every thing which was transacted in my house, was charmed with the peace and satisfaction which reigned there. Synesius was continually with Theofa, and I was from her as seldom as he. I never observed any thing in their friendship inconsistent with my opinion of the nearness of their relation ; or rather not having the least doubt about it, I cou'd not conceive any suspicions from their familiarity. Synesius whom I treated with all the tenderness of a son, and whose sweetness of temper really made him worthy of it, came to me one day when I was all alone in my own apartment. After some discourse about indifferent matters, he fell without design upon the difficulty which his father made about owning Theofa ; and talking in a strain which I had never heard from him before, told me, notwithstanding the pleasure he shou'd feel in believing he had so amiable a sister, that he cou'd not thoroughly persuade himself that he was her brother. My attention being awaken'd by a declaration which I so little expected, I gave him time to proceed. The confession of the wretch, said he, who was executed according to the sentence of the Cadi, was sufficient to warrant my father's refusal. What interest cou'd a man who was threaten'd with death have to dissemble with regard to Theofa's father ; and was it not evident after he had protested that Condoidi's daughter died

died with her mother, that he only changed his note to bribe the Judge by an infamous offer to save his life, or to delay the execution of his sentence? Neither is it more probable, added Synesius, that so accomplished a person as Theofa shou'd be the daughter of such a villain. It is however manifest that she can't be Paniota Condoidi's, and a thousand circumstances which I remember to have heard in the family, always hinder'd me from really believing her to be my sister.

Tho' Synesius seem'd to be very sincere in what he said, yet a conversation which he brought upon the carpet himself, and which was so opposite to the affection which he had always show'd to Theofa, gave me very extraordinary suspicions. I knew that he had wit enough to be capable of artifice, and remember'd the Seliotar's proverb concerning the sincerity of the Greeks. I immediately concluded therefore that there was some change in the heart of Synesius which I was ignorant of, and whether it proceeded from hatred or love, that he did not see Theofa with the same eyes as formerly. I did not think, after this discovery, that I had much reason to be apprehensive of being the dupe of one of his age. And resolving to make him discover his inclinations, without letting him perceive my design, I pretended to yield, more easily perhaps than he expected; to the difficulties which he had laid before me. I am not more certain than you, said I, with regard to Theofa's birth; and think after all that a necessary proof concerning it is wanting, and that is the acknowledgment of your family. And since you all agree not to own her, she ought no longer to insist on her pretensions. This answer gave him a satisfaction, of which I easily guess'd  
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the cause. But as he was preparing without doubt to confirm what he had said by some new proof, I added ; if you are as fully persuaded as you seem to be, that she is not your sister, I will not only not have you call her so, but thou'd be sorry to lay you under a necessity of living any longer with her : You shall return this evening to Constantinople. This speech threw him into great confusion, and the cause of it was not harder to be understood than that of his joy. I did not give him time to recover himself. As you must know, added I, that it was the regard which I have for her which induced me to receive you into my house, you must naturally conclude that I shall not keep you now the reason of my taking you ceases. I will therefore give orders for the conducting you back to your father's this evening.

Having said every thing which I thought capable of shewing the heart of Synesius, I concluded, without seeming to take much notice of the constraint he was under, by telling him that he would do well to go and take his leave of Theofa, since there was little probability of his ever seeing her again. After he had twenty times changed colour, and been confounded to a degree that moved my pity, he protested with a trembling voice that his doubts concerning the birth of his sister wou'd by no means lessen the love and esteem which he had for her ; that he look'd upon her, on the contrary, as the most amiable person of her sex, and thou'd think himself too happy in being permitted to live with her ; that he cou'd never alter his sentiments, but thou'd make it the study of his life to prove the sincerity of them ; and that there was no station in the world, if he cou'd add the satisfaction of pleasing her to the honour he had of belonging to me, for which he wou'd change  
his



his own. His warmth and eagerness, which laid his heart quite bare before me and made it impossible for me to be deceived, raised another suspicion which made me very uneasy. Brother or not, said I to myself, if this youth is in love with Theofa, and has imposed upon me 'till now, how can I be sure that she has not conceived the same passion for him, and been as artful in concealing it? Who can tell if it be not by agreement that they endeavour to get rid of an uneasy clog, which hinders them from gratifying their desires? This thought which was confirmed by every circumstance, so depress'd me with anguish that I shou'd not have succeeded better than Synesius in concealing it, had I not told him that I wanted to be alone, and that I wou'd see him again by and by. But my agony did not hinder me from watching whether he went directly to Theofa's apartment; for I might I thought gather something from the eagerness which I supposed he had of going to give her an account of our conversation. But I saw him enter very sorrowful into the garden, whither he doubtless went to give a loose to his grief of having succeeded so ill in his design; but his trouble must be extreme indeed if it exceeded mine.

My first care was to send for Bema, whose observations I supposed wou'd give me some farther light into this affair. But she pretended to know nothing about it; and as she always thought that Synesius was Theofa's brother, I was persuaded at last that she had made no remarks on their familiarity, because she had never turn'd her suspicions that way. I resolved to sound Theofa in as sly a manner as I had Synesius. As I was sure that he had not seen her since he quitted me, I first of all felt her pulse about my design of sending him  
home

home to his father. She was much surpris'd at it ; but when I added that the only reason of my displeasure against him, was the difficulty which he made of owning her any longer for his sister, she cou'd not help shewing a great deal of concern. How little, said she, are men to be depended upon ! He never express'd more esteem and friendship for me than for some days past. This complaint was so natural and the reflections which she join'd with it so artless, that my suspicions immediately vanish'd and were succeeded by the utmost confidence. I am inclined to think, said I, that you have inspir'd him with love, and that he finds himself incommoded by a title which does not suit with his inclinations. Theofa interrupted me by such pathetic exclamations that I wanted no other proof to confirm me in my opinion of her. What do I hear ! What ! do you think, says she, that he has any sentiments for me but those of a brother ? To what have you expos'd me ? And telling me with a surpris'g simplicity all that had pass'd between them, she gave me a detail which made me tremble at every word she spoke. Synesius had obtain'd caresses and favours which were sufficient to render his situation as a Lover exceedingly happy. He had been cunning enough to persuade her that it was an established custom among brothers and sisters to give and receive a thousand marks of an innocent affection ; and upon this principle he had accustomed her not only to live with him in the greatest familiarity, but even continually to satisfy his passion by a very free use of her charms. Her hands, her lips, her bosom had been as it were the inheritance of the enamour'd Synesius. I drew all these confessions from Theofa one after another, and was secured from the apprehension of greater freedoms only by

by the frankness with which she own'd and regretted those which were past. All the boasted precepts of wisdom cou'd not defend me from severer anguish than I had ever known before ! Ah ! Theofa, said I, you have no feeling of the woes which you inflict upon me. I do myself the greatest violence in leaving you mistress of your heart ; but if you bestow it on another, your cruelty will occasion my death.

I had never spoke so plainly to her before : And she was so struck with what I said that she blush'd, and holding down her head, you will not impute to me as a crime, said she, what proceeded only from my ignorance ; and if you think as well of me as I endeavour to deserve, you will not suppose me capable of doing for another what I never did for you. My sorrows made me pensive and silent. Besides, I saw nothing in Theofa's answer which gave me any reason to be satisfied with the declaration I had made. What cou'd I hope for, if she continued firm to her principles of virtue ; or what, if she had forgotten them in favour of Synesius ? This reflection, or rather the coldness of her answer, reviving all my uneasiness, I left her, with an air of anger rather than fondness, to go and rid myself of Synesius.

He was come out of the garden ; and when I order'd a Servant to call him to me, I was told that he was in my apartment. But I received at the same time some advices from Constantinople which greatly alarm'd me for some of my best friends. Word was sent me by an Express, that the Aga of the Janissaries had been arrested the night before, upon some suspicions which concern'd nothing less than the life of the Grand Seignior ; and that the Selictar and the Bostangi Bachi, who were accounted his greatest friends,

were

were apprehensive of the same fate. My Secretary, from whom I received this advice, added to it some conjectures of his own. He supposed, he said, as the Bostangi Bachi had so much power and influence in the Grand Seignior's Seraglio, that his enemies would not make any attempt upon his person ; but that he was the more convinced by this that they would not spare his friends, among whom the Selictar, Cheriber, Dely Azet, Mahmouth Prelga, Montel Olizun, and several other Lords who were my friends as well as his, held the first rank. He hereupon asked me, whether I would *attempt* nothing in their favour, or whether I would not at least some how or other *shelter* them from the danger with which they were threaten'd. The only *attempt* which I cou'd make to serve them, wou'd be to solicit the Grand Visir in their behalf ; but if they were accused of treason against the Government, I foresaw that my solicitations would be little regarded. By *sheltering them from danger* was meant something more. Besides the means of flight which I cou'd readily procure them, it was easy for me to do some of them the same service which my Predecessor made no difficulty of doing Mahomet Ostun, viz. to receive them privately into my house 'till the storm shou'd be over ; and in a Country where resentment vanishes after the first heat, they who escape at first are seldom in much danger afterwards. The duties however of my Employment not suffering me always to serve my friends without some precautions, I resolved to return immediately to Constantinople, to satisfy myself with regard to the truth of all these events.

But as I was reading this account, I saw Synesius, who was indeed waiting for me, and whose  
timorous



timorous looks seem'd to be a prelude to some new scene. As soon as he saw that I had read my Letters, he prevented the reproaches with which I was going to load him, by throwing himself at my feet, with an air of humiliation which is no trouble to the Greeks ; and by conjuring me to forget every thing which he had said concerning Theofa's birth, and to permit him, as he was more disposed then ever to own her for his sister, to continue to live at Oru. He cou'd not conceive, added he, how it had been possible for him to doubt a moment of a truth which he felt so deeply impress'd on his heart ; and resolved, notwithstanding the injustice of his father, publickly to maintain that Theofa was his sister. I cou'd easily see thro' the artifice of the young Greek, who as he had got nothing by it, was willing to preserve at least the pleasures of which he was in possession. They did not give him much remorse, since he had enjoy'd them so long with so much tranquility ; and it was evidently with a design of carrying them farther, that he had endeavour'd to free himself from the troublesome title of brother. But all his hopes were ruin'd by my answer. I told him, without reproaching him with his love, that truth being independent of his denying or owning it, I should not form my opinion with regard to his sister's birth from what he had said and unsaid with so much levity ; but that I shou'd draw a much more infallible conclusion from it with respect to himself : that the tongue in vain retracts what the heart has utter'd ; and that I look'd upon him, to tell him in one word what I thought of him, as a pitiful equivocating scoundrel, who had acknowledged himself for Theofa's brother, who had disowned the title and offer'd to take it again, for much more despicable

despicable reasons than those of his father. It was, I own, my resentment which made me give him these hard names. I wou'd not suffer him to make any reply, and calling one of my Domestics, order'd him to conduct him back immediately to Constantinople. I left him without regarding his trouble and confusion; and remembering the permission which I had given him to take his leave of his sister, I revok'd it, and absolutely commanded him to depart without so much as seeing her.

Trusting the execution of my orders to my Domestics, I got immediately into my chariot, which I had order'd to be got ready as soon as I had read my Letters, and went to Constantinople to get farther informations before I undertook any thing in favour of my friends. The crime of the Chief of the Janissaries was his having seen Achmet, one of the Sultan Mustapha's brothers, in prison. The Bostangi Bachi was suspected of having facilitated this visit, and his enemies endeavour'd to draw the secret from the Aga. As he had for some time been at variance with the Grand Visir, it was not doubted but that this Minister wou'd do all he cou'd to ruin him; and what gave me most concern was to hear that Cheriber and Dely Azet had been arrested, only because they had spent at the Aga's part of the day which preceded his crime. I shou'd have run immediately to the Grand Visir, if I had consulted only my friendship for Cheriber; but not hoping for much from a vague sollicitation, I imagin'd that I shou'd serve my friend more effectually by seeing the Selictar first, with whom I might concert juster measures. I went to his house, but he was not there; and the concern which I saw in the faces of  
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all his Domesticks, convinced me that they were greatly alarm'd at his absence. A Slave, in whom I knew he reposed great confidence, came and told me privately that his Master went out in a great hurry as soon as he heard that Cheriber was arrested, and that he did not doubt but that the misfortune of his friend had made him resolve to save himself by flight. My answer was that he ought not to defer this precaution a moment, if he shou'd not have taken it already; and I made no difficulty of charging the Slave to offer him from me an asylum in my house at Oru, on condition only that he shou'd go thither in the night, and unattended. I had not only the example of my Predecessor to justify me but that of Bacha Rejanto also, who acquired immortal renown by affording a sanctuary to Prince Demetrius Cantimir. Besides, this was not stealing a criminal from punishment, but sheltering a gallant man against unjust suspicions.

As what I had hitherto done had been no real service to my friends, I resolved to wait upon some Turkish Lords from whom I might at least hope for further information. It began to be rumour'd that the Aga of the Janissaries, after having made a confession in the midst of tortures, had been strangled by Mutes. The Se-lictar's not having been arrested was thought a good omen for him, and I heard no crime but his friendship for the Aga alledged against him, But Cheriber and Dely Azet were so threaten'd by the voice of the Public, that I was too uneasy not to go immediately to the Grand Visir. Not pretending, as it was an affair of state, to move him in their favour by any other arguments but my great friendship for them, I only

conjured him, if they were not guilty of crimes of which I thought them incapable, that he wou'd have some regard to my intreaties. He heard me with a very grave air. Be assured, said he, that the Justice of the Grand Seignior is not blind, but knows how to distinguish between the innocent and the guilty. Apprehend nothing for your friends, if they have nothing to reproach themselves with. He added, however, that my recommendation wou'd never be without its weight at the Port, and promised that the two Bassas shou'd feel the good effects of it. But bursting into a laugh, the Seliçtar, said he, must needs think it very powerful, since his fears have made him seek an asylum in your house. I did not take the meaning of this jest. He went on in the same strain, pretending to commend my confusion and silence, which he looked upon as marks of caution. But when I protested, in the plainest terms, that I did not know where the Seliçtar was, he told me, that he had set spies over him, and knew that he went the night before to my house at Oru with so few attendants, that it was plain that he only went thither to hide himself. I don't think, added he, that he is guilty of any thing, and shall not impute to him as a crime his ancient friendship with the Aga of the Janissaries. But I thought proper to have him observed, and am not sorry that he is frighten'd enough to make him a little more circumspect for the future in the choice of his friends. He afterwards gave me his word that he wou'd not molest him at my house ; but made me promise to conceal what he told he, and not to put him out of his pain for some time.

Notwithstanding what the Visir said, I cou'd not believe that the Seliçtar was at Oru. I came  
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from thence that day. What probability was there that he shou'd be at my house without my knowledge, and that he shou'd have engaged my Domestics to conceal his arrival from me? His passion for Theofa was the first thought which darted into my head. May he not be less thoughtful of the safety of his life, than of the success of his amour? And if it be true, said I to myself, that he has been concealed in my house ever since last night, is it probable that Theofa shou'd not be in the secret? The Reader may form what idea he pleases of my sentiments for her: If he don't think I merit the title of a Lover, he may look upon me as her Guardian or Monitor; but I can assure him that I was greatly alarm'd, and thought of nothing but of getting back to Oru. When I came there, I ask'd the first<sup>o</sup> Servant I saw, where the Seliotar was, and how he came to be concealed in my house without my knowledge. It was the Footman whom I had order'd to see Synesius to his father's. Tho' I was surpris'd to find him returned so soon, yet as it was very possible, I took no notice of it; and did not ask him, 'till he had assured me that the Seliotar was not at my house, how he had acquitted himself of my orders? He must certainly discover some confusion in his answer; but having no reason to be suspicious of him, I did not observe with what air he told me, that he had conducted Synesius to his father's. I was however equally deceived by his answers to both my questions; with this difference only, that in the first he was sincere, and told a lye in the second, to conceal a piece of treachery in which he was an accomplice. In a word, tho' I was persuaded that the Seliotar was not come to

my house, and that Synesius had left it, yet they were both there, which I did not know for several days.

Synesius look'd upon the order of his departure as the sentence of his death. But having no method but artifice to avoid obeying it, he consider'd that my servants did not know my motives, and that he might probably prevail on them to consent to his staying, at least 'till my return, at Oru. Being apprehensive afterwards of my coming back, as it happen'd, when I was least expected, he resolv'd by a considerable present to bribe the Footman to whom I had committed the care of seeing him to his father's. I know not with what pretences he colour'd his proposals; but having brought him over to his interest, he pretended to set out with him, and they both came back again in a few minutes. Synesius was lock'd up in his chamber, and the Footman appear'd in the house some hours after, as though he had executed my commission, and was just returned from the City.

There was a greater variety of incidents in the Seliotar's adventure. The reader will remember Bema was not satisfied with her condition; that she look'd upon me as a Foreigner who did not sufficiently value her talents, and whom she served with regret; being piqued at my seeming to put too little confidence in her, or induced by her vanity to think that she was not advanced to the rank which she merited in my family. The Seliotar had been very frequent in his visits at Oru, and she had too much penetration not to discover the views which brought him thither. Her disposition, which by a long experience of a Seraglio was turned to intrigue, was agreeably employ'd in any thing which might contribute

to her revenge. She got an opportunity of speaking with the Seliſtar ; and making him an offer of her ſervices with Theofa, went ſo far as to perſuade him that his happineſs depended on her. The hopes which ſhe had given him greatly ſurpaſs'd her own expectations ; for as ſhe knew on what terms I was with Theofa, ſhe cou'd not think that it wou'd be eaſy to obtain favours for him which ſhe knew had never been granted to me. But it was upon this very knowledge that ſhe founded her hopes of feeding the weakneſs of a Lover. After ſhe had confirmed him in the opinion which he always had of me with regard to Theofa, ſhe flatter'd herſelf with knowing enough of the inclinations and complexion of a girl of her age, to answer for her not being eternally deaf to the voice of pleaſure ; and the firſt promiſe which ſhe made the Seliſtar, was built upon the hopes of meeting with no oppoſition.

It is true indeed as ſhe conſtantly attended Theofa, and knew ſo well how to govern her own ſex, that ſhe was more formidable in this enterprize than even the heat of conſtitution, upon which the Seliſtar founded all his hopes. But whatever arts ſhe had made uſe of, her project cou'd not be far advanced when the Seliſtar was ſo much alarm'd at the diſgrace of the Aga of the Janiſſaries. As in his firſt doubts he had conſidered whether it would not be his beſt way to collect together what he could of his fortune and ſeek an aſylum among the Chriſtians, and as all his fears were not able to abate his paſſion, he had been the more urgent with Bema, and would gladly have ſacrificed all he had in the world to have been accompanied by Theofa in his flight. But the intriguing Bema,  
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who did not dare to promise him such sudden success, ventured to propose his retreating to his Mistress. The women were not regulated in my house with regard to their lodgings according to custom of the Turks, but distributed into the chambers which were allotted them by my Steward. That of Bema join'd to Theofa's apartment. It was this hole which he offer'd the Seliſtar for an asylum. And she told him that he would be so much the safer, since I myself not knowing that he was there, cou'd not sacrifice my friendship to my politics; and that on the other hand I cou'd not help being well pleased, after the danger was over, with having been of some service to my friend. It is much less strange that such a thought as this shou'd come into the head of a woman accusom'd to intrigues of all sorts, than that a man of the Seliſtar's rank shou'd approve of it. And I thought this event so extraordinary after I had discover'd all the circumstances of it, that I shou'd have given it as an instance of the most egregious follies of love, had not the Seliſtar's motives been strengthen'd by his apprehensions with regard to his life.

But I can add, that the haughtiness of the Turks is the first thing which leaves them in adversity. As all their grandeur is borrow'd from that of their Master, whose Slaves they profess themselves to be, they retain nothing of it in the least disgrace; and the motives of pride in most men are very weak, when they are reduced to personal merit. I knew, however, that the Seliſtar had good qualities enough to make him a formidable Lover, especially when he attack'd a woman who had been educated in the same country, and who consequently cou'd not be offended  
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with what we shou'd think disgustful in a Turk. I did not acquaint Theofa with the reasons which had brought me back from Constantinople. On the contrary, being more free than usual, as I had got rid of the load which lay heavy on my heart, I discovered a satisfaction in my conversation with her of which she took notice and ask'd me the cause. This gave me an opportunity of repeating with more gaiety what I had told her in the morning with too sad and languishing an accent. But the more sure she was of her Empire over my heart, the more uncertain was I with regard to the part I had to act; and finding my mind more at ease since I was rid of my fears, I had strength enough to suppress the desires which prompted me to talk of my passion. When I reflect upon what is past, and form at present, perhaps, a better judgment than I did then of my dispositions, I secretly desired, methinks, that Theofa shou'd have conceived for me part of the passion which I felt for her, or at least that she shou'd have shown me some signs of it; for I was still inclined to flatter myself that I had a greater share than any body else in her affections: But withheld by my principles of honour as well as my promises, I was unwilling to owe the conquest of her heart to artifice; and shou'd have thought myself happy in seeing her meet my wishes, and long as much as I for what I desired of her.

*End of the First Volume.*



